



Taped it

Four expert tips for building water-resistant decks

IT IS COMMON

knowledge among tradies that water is the enemy of timber and the leading cause of deterioration for decks. It can lead to mould, mildew, rot and premature deck failure. To prevent moisture from undermining your next installation, keep these four tips in mind:

1. SURVEY THE SLOPE

Water must drain away from a deck structure.

Set the deck framing at a pitch of one per cent to two per cent to slope away from the building site. If you plan to install an under-deck drainage system, decide where the water will discharge. Consider adding a French drain (a.k.a. an engineered trench), reservoir or other means to redirect the water or collect it for use in watering a garden or planting area.

2. PROTECT THE SUBSTRUCTURE

The timber used in deck building is pressure-treated to be water-resistant – not waterproof. To protect a deck's structural elements from moisture and rot, it's critical to apply flashing tape, such as Trex® Protect, over all the joinery and blocking. Designed specifically for decking applications, and available in sizes for use on joists,

bearers and rims, these self-adhesive butyl tapes also seal deck fasteners and help screws to hold longer and stronger by preventing moisture penetration and defending against splitting that can result from seasonal freezing and thawing.

3. USE LOW-MAINTENANCE DECKING

Timber decks can be beautiful but any type of wood, whether pressure-treated lumber, cedar or exotic hardwood, must be cleaned regularly and coated every few years to keep it looking good and prevent water damage. That's why composite and



As well as Trex Protect flashing tape is not only protective, it also helps hold screws longer and stronger

PVC boards, which are practically impervious to water, continue to gain popularity. They require little upkeep and last for decades.

Images: Trex

4. DIVERT WATER WITH A DECK DRAINAGE SYSTEM

For more comprehensive waterproofing of your substructure, consider adding a deck drainage system. Designed for use on elevated decks, these systems capture and divert water away from a deck. This not only protects the foundation from moisture penetration but also keeps the space beneath the deck dry and usable for storage or as an additional outdoor living area. Offering maximum protection, the Trex® RainEscape® system installs above the joists of a deck to shield the entire foundation. It also allows homeowners to discreetly run gas and electrical lines beneath the drainage system and a soffit ceiling to power lights, ceiling fans, appliances and electronic components.



Keeping decks protected against mould and rot is vital – tradies can rely on Trex to deliver trustworthy results to their customers

GREAT ADVICE!

Tradies can find great solutions and advice at au.trex.com



Without a trace

Bosch unveils latest tool prioritising precision and safety

Good things come in small packages, and Bosch has loaded its GLF 18V-8 Laminate Trimmer with a tonne of innovation to make it a top choice for tradies.

As well as packing the punch of Bosch's 18V brushless motor; the 18V Laminate Trimmer adds a bevy of safety and performance upgrades to make more than your average trimmer.

SIMPLE BUT SAFE

The 18V Laminate Trimmer is teeming with safety features that makes it unique from its competitors.

Older edge routers are known for making a mess, but not this one.

Bosch's 18V Laminate Trimmer comes standard with an in-built surface and edge-routing vacuum adaptors, making the trimmer the only one of its kind to have one. This adaptor reduces dust production by up to 95 per cent*, which is great not only for keeping the job clean, but also the tradie's airways.

The adaptor – paired with a high-quality parallel guide interface – makes for an efficient job and a quality final product.

Also unique to this trimmer is its drop control feature, which shuts off the tool automatically if dropped.

TOE THE LINE

Tradies need a router that can produce perfect results without too much elbow grease. Thankfully, the 18V brushless battery used by Bosch's trimmer delivers the equivalent of 600W of corded power.

When trimming edges, making grooves, or profiling templates, you need a powerful cordless router to handle all these

tasks efficiently.

Whether it's trimming along timber or laminate, this tool is easily adjustable between 10,000-30,000RPM based on the tradie's needs.

The constant speed function maintains a stable cutting speed, ensuring a superior finish. Additionally, the optimised cooling ventilation design prevents overheating, even during extended use.

When it comes time to swap out or adjust bits on the trimmer, tradies don't



The router also comes with an LED light to make it even easier to make precise trims.

have to tinker with two wrenches and can instead simply swap them out with the push of the spindle lock button.

GLF 18V-8 Laminate Trimmer cordless router excels in edge trimming, grooving, template trimming, and profiling.

It performs all the tasks of a corded palm router with the added convenience and ease of being cordless.

Images: Bosch Professional Power Tools

CHECK IT OUT

Find out more about the GLF 18V-8 Laminate Trimmer at bosch-pt.com.au

MIND YOUR BUSINESS



On your guard

How tradies can **protect** their beloved tools

TRADIES don't just like their tools; they really love them.

Keeping tools and other equipment protected should be a top priority for tradies.

Sometimes, however, circumstances out of their control can lead to precious tools getting damaged or stolen.

Take this handyman*, who was using their chainsaw to cut down a

decaying tree that had fallen.

While cutting through the deteriorated limb, it snapped prematurely and crushed the chainsaw. Thankfully, they had taken out Portable Equipment insurance* as optional cover in their Business Insurance Pack with BizCover.

Due to the unforeseen nature of the incident – which could be attributed

to the decay of the tree – the insurer paid a total of \$1,049.09 to replace the chainsaw. Talk about a weight off their shoulders!

As well as being a blast to use, tools and equipment can be costly for most tradies and contractors to replace, and they are essential to carry out different jobs.

Equipment theft remains a massive headache for tradies Australia-wide,

and incidental or malicious damage is an ever-present risk for any tradies using tools in the industry. If you add to that harsh Aussie weather conditions that could also damage tools and equipment, tradies have a lot of reasons to be protective of their stuff.



A tradie's toolbox is sacred, which is why protecting what's inside is crucial

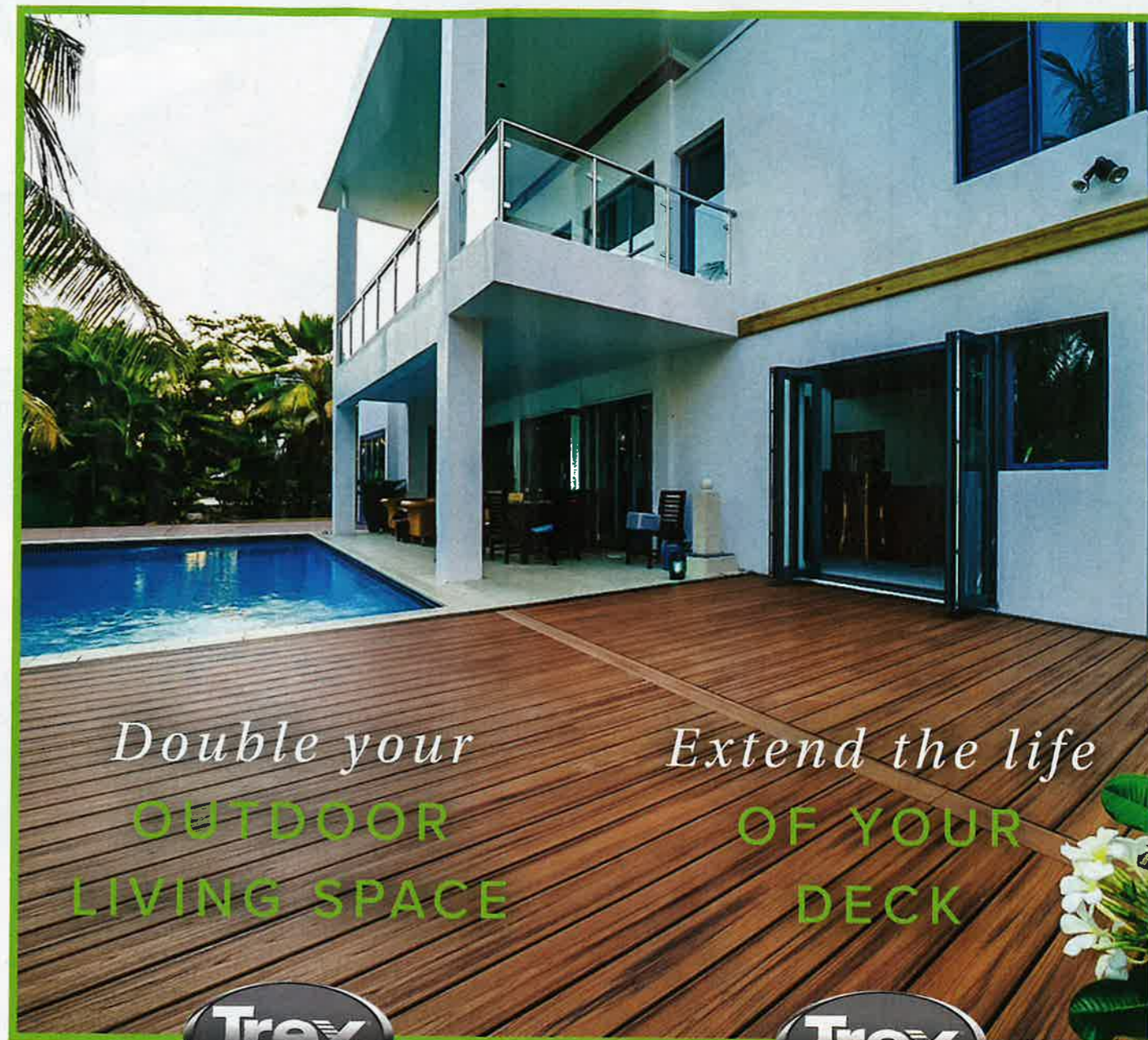
With this in mind, tradies may want to consider different types of cover to make sure they're not out-of-pocket if they face an insurance claim.

CHECK IT OUT

BizCover has helped over 58,000 tradies* across Australia find business insurance on the go. Are you an on-the-go tradie? Visit bizcover.com.au or give us a call today to get covered in minutes.

*The provision of the claims examples are for illustrative purposes only and should not be seen as an indication as to how any potential claim will be assessed or accepted. Coverage for claims on the policy will be determined by the insurer, not BizCover. *This information is general only and does not take into account your objectives, financial situation or needs. It should not be relied upon as advice. As with any insurance, cover will be subject to the terms, conditions and exclusions contained in the policy wording. *Based on data from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. © 2024 BizCover Pty Limited, all rights reserved. ABN 68 127 707 975; AFSL 501769

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