



For more comprehensive waterproofing of a substructure, consider adding a deck drainage system. Images: Trex

Four critical steps to prevent deck decay

It's common knowledge 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 an 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 1% to 2% to slope away from the building site
- If an under-deck drainage system is planned, decide where the water will discharge, and
- Consider adding a French drain (aka 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.



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

4. Divert water with a deck drainage system

For more comprehensive waterproofing of a 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. **LC**

For more information visit trexprotect.com and trexrainscape.com.



HOW TO CREATE A WATERPROOF DECK

