

# Balau decking

## Overview

Balau is a Malaysian hardwood timber.

We stock carefully selected 19x90mm 1st Grade Reeded **Bangkirai** Balau decking sourced from the best suppliers.

Our Balau decking is machined from kiln dried timber.

With proper care it is very durable and suitable for use as exterior decking.

## Installation

Our Balau decking is reeded (fine grooves) on 1 face.

We recommend that Balau should be laid smooth face **upwards** for general decking. If laid with the grooves on top, sanding and oiling is more difficult, water collects in the grooves, and screws are difficult to hide and countersink neatly.

It is critical that the supporting joists comply with SANS 10082 safe span tables. 50mm bearers for good support are advisable. Bearer spacing for 19mm is 450-500mm and plank spacing of 4mm is recommended.

## Fastening

We stock specialized Stainless Steel decking screws with a torx-drive head. A specialized countersinking and pre drilling tool must be used. A 60mm screw length is recommended but 50mm can be used as well.

Galvanised steel posi screws are NOT recommended due to their relatively short life span.

Hidden decking clips are NOT recommended. If any movement occurs in Balau decking after installation it may lift decking clips.

## Finishing

After installation, Somerset Timbers Galseal must be applied to feed oil back into the timber. Various colours are available. This can be reapplied as necessary – a 2nd coat probably after 6 months and then yearly.

The use of surface sealers and varnishes is not recommended as this causes the timber to heat up excessively in hot conditions and does not allow the timber to breathe.

If no oil is applied, Balau will fade to a light grey colour. Due to the density fine hair cracks are a characteristic of the timber as it dries over time. In very dry or UV exposed areas there is a risk of roughness and flaking.

Following correct installation and periodic maintenance, Balau should provide a very long lasting, beautiful surface.

Technical data	
<b>Dimension</b>	19mm x 90mm
<b>Colour</b>	Yellow brown
<b>Profile</b>	 Reeded finish on 1 side.
<b>Density</b>	850 to 950kg per m <sup>3</sup>
<b>Origin</b>	Indonesia and Malaysia
<b>Hardness</b>	1640 on <a href="#">Janka scale</a>
<b>Species name</b>	Shorea
<b>Lengths</b>	1.8m up to 5.4m in 300mm increments
<b>Moisture</b>	Kiln dried - beware of low cost air dried balau.
<b>FSC</b>	No - it is not possible to obtain FSC certification for this material.
<b>Span</b>	500mm bearer to bearer
<b>Recommended fastening</b>	S/S decking screws 60mm (Clip systems are NOT recommended for Balau.)
<b>Finishing</b>	Galseal