

# 5 Key Factors for Your Floating Deck System

A short resource guide

Planning a floating deck? Choosing the right foundation system is crucial for its longevity, appearance, and functionality. While your builder or designer will guide you, understanding these factors will help you make informed decisions. Here are 5 key things to consider:

## 1 Site conditions - whats underneath

*The Challenge:* Is your site perfectly level or sloped? Are you building over soil, grass, old concrete, pavers, or a waterproof membrane? Different foundations suit different conditions.

*The Solution:* While traditional blocks require extensive ground leveling, Adjustable Pedestals (like Deck Jacks) excel here. They easily accommodate slopes and unevenness, ensuring a level deck surface without major earthworks. Their wide base is safe for membranes, and they can be placed directly on existing hard surfaces, saving time and cost.

*Consider:* How much site preparation are you willing to undertake? Pedestals minimise this.

## 2. Deck Height and Indoor/outdoor Flow

*The Challenge:* Do you want your deck slightly raised, or perfectly level with your home's internal floor for seamless indoor-outdoor flow? Achieving precise heights can be tricky with fixed foundation methods.

*The Solution:* Deck Jacks offer precise height adjustment. They come in various sizes and can be fine-tuned to achieve the exact finished deck level required, making that desirable level threshold easy to accomplish. This is much harder with blocks or ground-level framing.

*Consider:* How important is a perfectly level transition from your house to the deck?



### 3. System Durability & Material Compatibility

*The Challenge:* Your deck foundation needs to withstand NZ's conditions (moisture, UV exposure) and properly support your chosen decking material (timber, composite, tiles, pavers) without failing. Timber bearers directly on damp ground or concrete can rot

*The Solution:* Deck Jacks are made from high-strength, UV-resistant polypropylene that won't rot, rust, or corrode. They keep timber bearers off the ground, preventing moisture uptake. Specific heads are designed to securely support timber joists or accommodate structural tiles/pavers, ensuring compatibility and long-term stability. They also have high load-bearing capacities.

*Consider:* What decking material are you using? Ensure the foundation system is compatible and durable.

### 4. Drainage & Under-Deck Ventilation

*The Challenge:* Trapped moisture is a deck's enemy. Water needs to drain away efficiently, and air needs to circulate beneath the deck to prevent mould, rot, and insect infestation. Decks built too close to the ground without adequate airflow are vulnerable

*The Solution:* Adjustable pedestal systems inherently create a clear space between the ground/substrate and the deck structure. >

< This gap allows water to run off freely underneath and promotes crucial airflow, keeping the underside drier and healthier, significantly extending the life of your deck.

*Consider:* How will water escape? Is there enough space for air to move freely below the deck boards?

### 5. Access Needs and Future Maintenance

*The Challenge:* Do you have pipes, wiring, or drains under the proposed deck area? Might you need to inspect a waterproof membrane in the future? Accessing the space under a low, traditionally built deck can be very difficult.

*The Solution:* Decks built on Deck Jacks provide clear access underneath. Decking boards or pavers can often be individually lifted, allowing easy inspection, cleaning, or maintenance of services or membranes below without major disruption.

*Consider:* Is there anything under the deck area you might need to access later?



Considering a new deck? A floating system using Deck Jacks offers a smart, durable, and versatile foundation solution.

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