

# THE ORIGINAL DECK TAPE Q&A

## PIONEERED IN 2012, PERFECTED OVER 12 EDITIONS

### What inspired the creation of Deck Tape in 2012?

At 18 years old, we were building decks using Southern Yellow Pine for both the boards and frames—which cost a fortune to import from the USA. But the quality was worth it; that timber lasts. Around then, composite decking started gaining popularity. People wanted the look and durability without the maintenance, but the rising cost of boards led to corners being cut—especially on the frames underneath.

Suddenly, 95% of the frames were being built with basic C16 treated timber. The issue? It's not built to last. Customers would spend a fortune on beautiful decking boards, not realising that underneath, cheaper, decay-prone timber was supporting it. That's when we saw a serious problem.

### What problem were we seeing in the industry that no one else was addressing properly?

The industry still doesn't fully realise that there is significant trapped moisture under the decking boards, sitting on top of the joists, especially when using non-breathable composite boards over natural, breathable timber. That moisture doesn't dry out, even after eight weeks of dry weather. What's needed is a flexible, ultra-thin barrier that seals the top of the joist, moves with the timber, and keeps moisture out without cracking over time. Without this protection, that trapped moisture accelerates decay.

## **Why did we feel existing solutions like Bitumen and Black Jack paint were inadequate?**

After years of testing, it became clear that bitumen-based products, like Black Jack paint, simply don't work well on timber. Timber expands and contracts daily, far more than people realise. Some of these coatings have shown visible cracking in as little as six weeks.

This kind of protection is worse than no protection at all, as cracks create channels that funnel water into concentrated spots rather than allowing it to disperse—accelerating decay. You're genuinely better off with no protection than using an inadequate one.

## **Where did the idea of using a self-adhesive tape for deck protection come from?**

A few reasons. We wanted to make installation easier. We also wanted to eliminate the need for stapling or puncturing a DPC layer. But mostly, we needed a chemical adhesive that could swell under a strong, thin protective layer—something that would flex with the timber and continue to seal around fixings for 25+ years.

We also designed the tape to self-seal around screws, forming a complete moisture barrier—even after being penetrated. That's a game-changer.

## **What is the evolution of Deck Tape from version 1 to the latest edition?**

The first version worked well, but the adhesive was too stiff and lacked flexibility. Since then, we've gone through 12 documented improvements.

Some of the key changes include boosting the tape's ability to bond to itself and refining it to work better with the chemicals used in timber treatments. That deep understanding of treated wood is crucial for a long-term adhesive bond.

## What makes Walther Strong Deck Tape technically superior to others on the market?

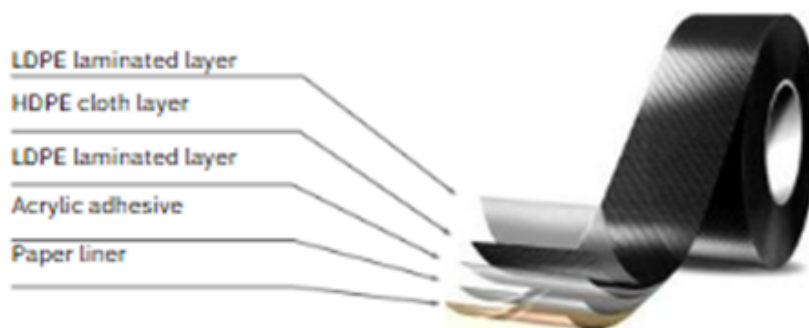
We've tested our tape in 16 countries against other coatings and tapes, and the results speak for themselves:

- ✓ Outstanding mechanical strength under repeated expansion stress
- ✗ No degradation after exposure to timber treatment chemicals
- ✓ Consistent bond strength with over 25-years guarantee
- ✓ Withstands extreme temperatures and weather conditions
- ✗ No oxidation even after 30 years
- ✓ Minimal aging of both the adhesive and multi-layer structure
- ✗ No cloth reinforcement, as standard cloth absorbs moisture and isn't suitable for this application
- ✓ Mono-component adhesive that flexes and expands with timber, preventing separation, failure, or curing issues.

## What sets our materials and adhesives apart from cheaper alternatives?

This product was designed solely for this application—and to be the best. We believe in it so much that we back it with a 25-year bond guarantee. That's not an easy promise to make, but it's one we stand by.

Yes, we could make a cheaper version, but we refuse to compromise on the first line of defence. Every layer of this tape has gone through years of development and refinement. We stay ahead by continuing to innovate based on what real users need.



## What do you think people misunderstand about imitation products?

Many people see a knockoff and think it's the same thing, just cheaper. It's not. In some cases, it's actually worse than no protection at all—some imported versions even trap water over time.

We're often called expensive, but it's not because of the name—it's because of the performance. Cheap copies use cloth for strength, but cloth absorbs moisture. Sure, we could make a sticky black tape for £1, but it wouldn't be fit for purpose.

Using proper protection like Deck Tape is peace of mind—typically just 1–3% of the overall cost of a decking project. It's an intelligent investment that protects your frame and extends the life of the entire structure. We're not here to just sell tape—we're here to solve a real problem for customers.

## What were some early industry reactions when Deck Tape first launched?

People told us it was too expensive, too thin, wouldn't work. We constantly heard: "Why do you even need to protect the timber?"

Now it's our best seller, used by professional deck builders in 16 countries. It's even launched us into the US market. The need is clear, people just had to see it for themselves. And now, with years of field use, independent testing, and performance data, there's clear proof of Deck Tape's quality and durability.

## How has Deck Tape changed the decking industry since its introduction?

It's helped people realise it's a smart investment. It adds just 2–3% to the cost of a project but can extend a deck's life by 15–25 years. That's a huge contribution to the landscaping market.

## Is there any notable commercial or industrial projects that have used the Walther Strong Deck Tape?

Yes—many. Projects in Dubai, London, New York, Japan, Germany, the Netherlands, and the USA. Notably, IKEA HQ in London, South Pier Blackpool, and Southport Pier.

We now have over 48 million linear meters of Deck Tape installed worldwide.

## Have we received any awards, recognition, or significant feedback?

The best feedback? Pro deck installers won't use anything else. That says it all.

And in 2025, Walther Strong Deck Tape became ASTM approved, which was huge for us. It's a key milestone that opened up access to the USA market.

## What's the biggest proof that our tape stands the test of time?

We run extremely demanding xenon age testing, which simulates sunlight, rain, heat, and cold in cycles. Our tape showed performance lasting over 50 years. Some tapes start peeling in under 6 months. Peeling = hardened adhesive = failure. That's where the difference shows.

## What's next for Deck Tape and the Walther Strong product range?

We've got newer versions in the pipeline that address specific market issues. Innovation is everything at Walther Strong—we're always listening to what professionals need and responding with solutions through our tapes and adhesives.

## How do we see the market evolving—and how will we stay ahead?

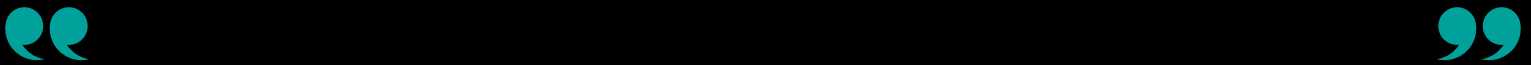
As decking becomes more advanced and design-focused, new demands will emerge. But we're already on it—we're identifying future needs and creating solutions now. That's how we stay ahead.

## How does Deck Tape meet industry leading standards?

Deck Tape underwent extensive ASTM testing to evaluate its sealing performance, durability, and reliability—and the results confirm its industry-leading performance.

Test Surface/Condition	Industry Standard (AAMA 711-07)	Decktape Results	Performance Difference
OSB	>2.8 Lbs/in	18.6 Lbs/in	6.6x stronger
Aluminium	>1.6 Lbs/in	7.9 Lbs/in	4.9x stronger
PVC	>1.5 Lbs/in	4.8 Lbs/in	3.2x stronger
Timber Joists	>1.6 Lbs/in	4.9 Lbs/in	3.1x stronger
On Itself	>1.6 Lbs/in	3.8 Lbs/in	2.4x stronger
UV Aging (14 days)	>1.6 Lbs/in	3.8 Lbs/in	4.9x stronger
Heat (50°C, 65°C, 80°C)	>1.5–1.6 Lbs/in	3.8 Lbs/in	5.2x stronger
Water Immersion	>1.5 Lbs/in	8.9 Lbs/in	5.9x stronger

## DON'T JUST TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT LISTEN TO THE PROFESSIONALS THAT USE OUR DECK TAPE EVERY DAY



The Walther Strong Deck Tape is an absolute game changer when working with decking. Taking time to build a lovely decked area deserves going the extra mile to make the structure last as long as possible in all the elements. I've used this tape along all the top of the frame work to this massive deck I built last year. Paired with a decent air flow gap underneath I know that this deck is going to stand the test of time and all the weather the UK can throw at it. So simple to install. Can't recommend it enough as a vital part of any deck building project.



-Oli Lee @withbearhandsuk

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