

Comparison of modular wood deck tiles

	SwiftDeck tile (with integral plastic base)	Loop and pin design tile (with integral plastic base)	I-connect tile (uses separate mounting legs)	Solid wood tile (no plastic base)
Ease of installation	Symmetrical design – easy to install, tiles snap together via inbuilt male and female connectors	Not symmetrical – pins on two sides lock into loops on other two sides so requires some extra attention to match the correct sides of tiles when laying	Requires some skill - need to fit separate plastic mounting brackets to holes drilled in underside of wood tile.	Non-interconnected tiles are relatively easy to lay provided tiles do not have to be cut. Tiles with interconnectivity generally require extra fixings
Ability to remove tiles once laid	Tiles can be lifted out individually and easily replaced	Difficult to remove tiles from center of deck without lifting adjacent tiles and similar difficulty in replacing tiles	Tiles can be easily removed and replaced.	Tiles can be easily removed and replaced.
Ability to fit around pipes, posts and other objects	Relatively easy. Cut tiles to fit specified shape. Some screws may need to be repositioned to ensure any cut slats are not loose after cutting.	Relatively easy. Cut tiles to fit specified shape. Some screws may need to be repositioned to ensure any cut slats are not loose after cutting.	Needs some care as cutting tiles may leave the tiles or the wood slats without adequate support.	Needs some care as cutting tiles may leave the wood slats without adequate support.
Wastage when filling in gaps less than full tile width.	If gap is less than 6”, two in-fill pieces can be cut from a single tile and both pieces used to in-fill gaps in same row of tiles	Generally involves wastage of remainder of cut tile as offcut cannot be used in same row of tile.	May be possible to use more than one part of a single tile to fill gaps but requires extra bearers to be cut and screwed to wood slats and requires extra holes be drilled in tile base to hold I-Connectors.	May be possible to use more than one part of a single tile to fill gaps but requires extra bearers to be cut and screwed to wood slats.
Suitability for laying on uneven surfaces	Some care needs to be taken to avoid “rocking” of the tiles if surface is too uneven. Tight fitting of connecting tabs and limited flexibility in plastic base allows for some tolerance for uneven surfaces.	Some care needs to be taken to avoid “rocking” of the tiles if surface is too uneven. Depending on the tightness of fit of connecting tabs and degree of flexibility in plastic base, some tolerance may exist for uneven surfaces.	Not really practical on uneven surfaces due to limited number of “legs” supporting each tile.	Some care needs to be taken to avoid “rocking” of the tiles if surface is too uneven. Can be more of a problem if tiles are not fitted with any interconnecting device.
Use in wet areas	Generally no particular problems as water drains away freely under the tiles via the mesh base.	Generally no particular problems as water drains away freely under the tiles via the mesh base.	Generally no particular problems as water drains away freely under the raised I-connecters base.	Care needs to be taken as wood bearers can twist or warp if in prolonged contact with water. Does not allow uninterrupted drainage under the tiles

	Ezydeck tile (with integral plastic base)	Loop and pin design tile (with integral plastic base)	I-connect tile (uses separate mounting legs)	Solid wood tile (no plastic base)
Use over bare ground	Some care needs to be taken as “feet” on plastic base may dig in if surface is too soft - ground must be firm, level and even.	Some care needs to be taken as “feet” on plastic base may dig in if surface is too soft - ground must be firm, level and even.	Since there are a very limited number of “feet” on each tile, special care needs to be taken.	Comparatively stable on bare ground but care needs to be taken to avoid decay in any wood in contact with the ground.
Use in extreme low temperatures	Plastic base may get more brittle at temps. below about - 20°C, but not normally a concern unless actual installation work is being carried out during such low temp. conditions.	Plastic base may get more brittle at temps. below about - 20°C, but not normally a concern unless actual installation work is being carried out during such low temp. conditions.	Plastic base may get more brittle at temps. Depending on type of plastic used.	No particular problems at low temps.
Use in high rainfall areas	Jarraah wood is renowned for its high decay resistance, so no particular problems provided wood does not remain in long term contact in pools of water.	Depends on the wood species used on the tiles.	Depends on the wood species used on the tiles.	Depends on the wood species used, but care needs to be taken as wood bearers can potentially twist and warp if subject to prolonged contact with water.
Use on steps or stairs	Not recommended	Not recommended	Unsuitable	Unsuitable
Movement of tiles in service	Inbuilt connecting tabs on all four sides lock adjacent tiles tightly and securely – tiles snap into position.	Inbuilt connecting tabs on all four sides lock adjacent tiles securely – some designs have looser fit than others.	I-connectors hold tiles securely in position in horizontal plane but not in vertical plane.	Most wood tiles do not have inbuilt interconnectivity or only offer a primitive connecting system
Suitability in windy conditions	Tight fitting of connecting tabs holds complete deck together and minimizes possibility of being lifted in strong winds.	Connecting tabs hold complete deck together and minimizes possibility of being lifted in strong winds.	I-connectors hold tiles securely in position in horizontal plane but not in vertical plane so some possibility of being lifted in strong winds especially due to height the tiles are raised off the surface.	Generally no interconnectivity so possibility exists of tiles being lifted in strong winds although the closeness to the ground and weight of the generally larger tiles can minimize such problems.