

Few home improvements can match a wood deck for usefulness, beauty, and enhanced value to a home. Decks built with real wood that is preserved to last expand living to the outdoors offering space for entertaining, relaxing, and dining.

Building a Deck? Here are Some Tips

When planning your deck, consider the safety of your family and guests. A deck is an uncovered, outdoor structural floor system that is expected to endure changing weather and carry significant loads over many years. Careful material selection, design, installation, plus periodic inspection and maintenance are keys to long-term performance and structural stability.

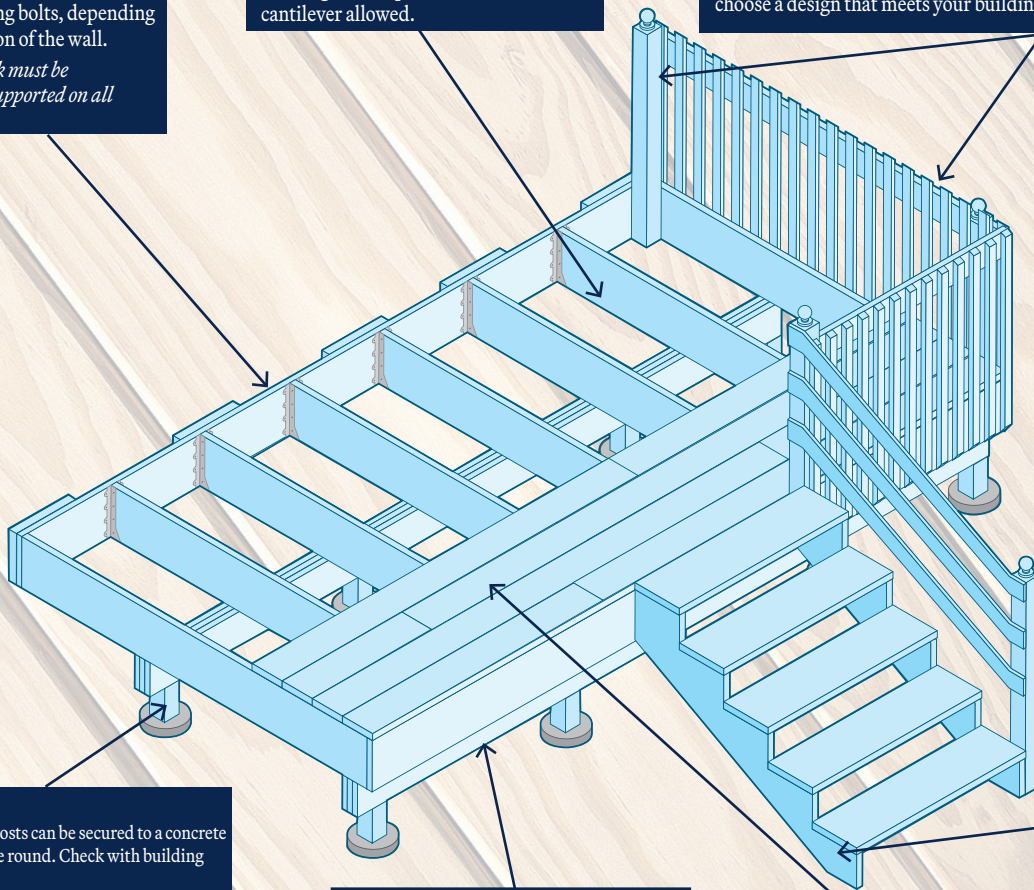
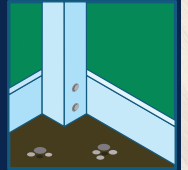
Once you have decided on the basic size, shape, and location of your deck, check local building codes to find out if there are restrictions as to height and size within your community. Contact your local building department for any specific requirements and guidelines they may have, and find out if a building permit is required before you build your deck.

LEDGER. The placement of the ledger determines the level of the deck floor, so be sure it is positioned at the correct height and is horizontal. In positioning the ledger, don't forget to allow for the thickness of the decking which will be above the ledger level. Improperly attached ledger boards are a major cause of deck collapses. Anchor it securely to the house using bolts, depending on composition of the wall.

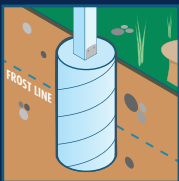
Note: The deck must be structurally supported on all sides.

JOISTS. Joists support the decking. Place joists a maximum of 16" from centre to centre. Use joist hangers if needed for extra support. Shorter spans between joists will help to minimize warping and twisting of deck boards as they dry. Also avoid designs with long cantilevers unsecured at one end; check with your local building code department on maximum cantilever allowed.

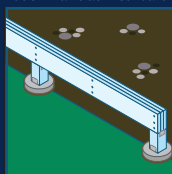
RAILINGS. Install posts for railing. These can be a continuation of the posts which support the deck; or, railing posts may be bolted to the outside joist or joist extensions. Using the deck posts provides sturdy railing support. Intermittent posts, or spacer posts, can be used between the main support posts. Cross members can be nailed to posts at desired height. The aesthetics of your deck are most obvious in your choice of a railing. Many options are available to you; make sure you choose a design that meets your building codes.



POSTS. Posts can be secured to a concrete pier or set in the ground. Check with building code to decide which method is best for you. Footings should extend below the frost line.



BEAMS. Use three 3" nails at intervals of 12" to 16" to make the beam. Use 3" framing angles to attach the beam to the posts.



DECKING. Separate deck boards as follows to allow for expansion and contraction. If heavy and wet, leave little to no gap between boards as some shrinkage will occur. If light and dry, separate boards with an 1/8" gap (roughly the size of 8 penny nail) to allow for swelling. Screws take longer to drive than nails, but hold boards more securely and will allow for easier removal if necessary. If a board is bowed, install it with the crown up. Gravity and the weight of people and furniture will flatten it.

Stella-Jones Treated Wood Deck Suggested Materials List

Use	Description	Deck Size						
		8×8	8×10	8×12	10×10	10×12	12×12	12×16
Posts	4 × 4 × 8' Treated Wood	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	2 × 8 × 8' Treated Wood	2						
Beams	2 × 8 × 10' Treated Wood		2		2			
	2 × 8 × 12' Treated Wood			2		2	2	
	2 × 8 × 16' Treated Wood							2
	2 × 8 × 8' Treated Wood	10	10	10	1			
Joists/Ledger/Spacers	2 × 8 × 10' Treated Wood		2	1	11	11	1	
	2 × 8 × 12' Treated Wood			2		2	12	14
Joists/Ledger	2 × 8 × 16' Treated Wood							2
Decking	5/4 × 6 × 8' Treated Wood	18						
	5/4 × 6 × 10' Treated Wood		18		22			
	5/4 × 6 × 12' Treated Wood			18		22	26	
	5/4 × 6 × 16' Treated Wood							26
Railing Posts	4 × 4 × 54" Treated Wood	8	9	9	11	10	10	11
Handrail	2 × 4 × 8' Treated Wood	3	2	2	1	2 1/2	3	4 1/2
	2 × 4 × 10' Treated Wood		1	1 1/2	2	1		
Top/Bottom Rails	2 × 4 × 8' Treated Wood	6	4	4	2	6	9	
	2 × 4 × 10' Treated Wood		2	3	4	2		
Balusters	2 × 2 × 42" Treated Wood	34	38	41	46	49	56	63
Stair Stringers	3-Step Treated Stair Stringers	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Stair Treads	5/4 × 6 × 8' Treated Wood	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Beam Nails	3" Nails 100/pk	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Joist Nails	3 1/2" Framing Nails 2 Kg	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Deck Screws	2 1/2" Deck Screws	436	524	572	628	684	792	976
Concrete Pier	Concrete Mix 30 Kg (25 Kg)	9 (11)	9 (11)	12 (15)	9 (11)	12 (15)	12 (15)	15 (18)
Post Saddles	3 1/2" x 3 1/2" Saddle Bracket with Rebar	3	3	4	3	4	4	5
Railing Post Bolts	3/8" x 6" Carriage Bolts, Nuts, Washers	16	18	18	22	20	20	22
Lag Screws	1/2" x 6" Lag Screws and Shields	6	8	9	8	9	9	12
Joist Hangers	Joist Hangers to Joist Size	5	7	8	7	88	11	
All Purpose Hangers	90° Angled Hangers	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

Materials list for deck less than 24" above ground with concrete piers, 16" joist spacing, and 4" wide stairs (railing for stairs not included). Please consider this list as a guide for calculations and purchasing.

Be sure to check the building codes and consult a professional as all builds can be different.

Hot-dipped galvanized fasteners (meeting ASTM A 153) and connectors (ASTM A 653 Class G185 sheet), or better, are recommended for protection against the effects of moisture often present where treated wood is used.