



THE HOMEOWNER GUIDES / STAIRS

HOW TO PLAN OUTDOOR STAIRS.

A BETTER WAY DOWN.



Outdoor stairs connect the deck, the door and the yard. Good stairs feel easy underfoot, land in the right place and stay safe in rain, ice and snow.

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01 / THE WAY YOU LIVE

FOLLOW THE WAY YOU WALK.

Picture the walk from the door to where you usually head in the yard. The stairs should follow that path.

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- **THE LANDING** Where the stairs end matters. A pad or path at the bottom keeps mud off the steps.
 - **WIDTH** Wider stairs feel more welcoming and make carrying furniture or groceries easier.
 - **WINTER USE** Think about shoveling, ice and where melting snow will drain.
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02 / OPTIONS

CHOOSE A STAIR STYLE.

The style depends on height, space and how the stairs tie into the deck.

OPTION	WHAT IT IS	GOOD TO KNOW
STRAIGHT RUN	One flight from the deck to the ground.	Simple and efficient. Needs room to run out.
LANDING OR TURN	A platform that changes direction.	Fits taller decks and tight yards.
WIDE OR WRAP STEPS	Broad steps along the deck edge.	Doubles as casual seating.



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03 / THE SCOPE

WHAT AFFECTS THE SCOPE BESIDES HEIGHT.

- **RISE AND GRADE** Total height and sloping ground set the number of steps.
- **FOOTINGS AND LANDINGS** Stairs need solid support at the bottom and a safe landing.
- **RAILINGS AND LIGHTING** Handrails and step lights add safety and finish.

SETTLE THE RESPONSIBILITIES EARLY.

Property lines, local requirements, permits, utility locating, approvals, removal and restoration should be defined in writing before work begins.

04 / BEFORE WE TALK

A FEW NOTES. A BETTER START.

- ☐ Photos of the deck edge and the ground below
- ☐ Photos of any existing stairs
- ☐ The approximate height from deck to ground
- ☐ Notes on how the stairs are used in winter
- ☐ Where you want the stairs to land

05 / YOUR NEXT STEP

LET'S BUILD IT.

Start with a phone call. Tell us where the property is and what you have in mind, and we will talk through the space, the options and the next steps.

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BASED IN

Janesville, Wisconsin

YOUR NOTES

This guide is for planning. The requirements and responsibilities for your property need to be confirmed separately.

Any sketch is a starting point, not a construction plan, and not to scale.

A phone call or callback request is not a booked appointment or an approved estimate.

Photos are concept imagery, not Ironwood projects.