



THE HOMEOWNER GUIDES / WOOD DECKS

HOW TO PLAN A WOOD DECK.

ROOM FOR YOUR EVENINGS.



A wood deck gives the back of the house a place to gather. Start with how you want to use it, then work out the footprint, the route to the yard and the boards that fit your upkeep habits.

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01 / THE WAY YOU LIVE

START WITH HOW YOU LIVE.

Sketch where the table, grill and chairs will sit and how people will walk past them. The answers shape the size and the shape.

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| ■ A PLACE TO EAT | Leave room to pull chairs out from the table and walk behind them while people are seated. |
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| ■ A PLACE TO SETTLE IN | Lounge seating takes more depth than most people expect. Plan it before the deck is sized. |
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| ■ A WAY INTO THE YARD | Decide where the steps land so the path to the lawn, garden or gate feels natural. |
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02 / OPTIONS

CHOOSE YOUR WOOD.

Each species looks and weathers differently. Compare the full system: boards, fasteners and the finish you are willing to maintain.

OPTION	WHAT IT IS	GOOD TO KNOW
PRESSURE-TREATED PINE	The common, budget-friendly choice for framing and decking.	Expect checking and movement as it dries. Plan to stain or seal.
CEDAR	A naturally attractive softwood with a warm color.	Weathers to silver unless finished. Softer surface shows wear.
HARDWOOD	Dense species with a rich, furniture-like look.	Heavier and harder to work. Ask about availability and finish.



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03 / THE SCOPE

WHAT AFFECTS THE SCOPE BESIDES SIZE.

- **HEIGHT AND ACCESS** Taller decks need more framing, stairs and railing. Tight access adds labor.
- **EXISTING CONDITIONS** Old decks, grade, soil and where the house ledger attaches all matter.
- **DETAILS** Railing style, stairs, lighting, skirting and patterns add time and material.

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 back of the house and yard
- ☐ A rough footprint with approximate dimensions
- ☐ Furniture you plan to use and its size
- ☐ Photos of any existing deck
- ☐ Your preferences for look, upkeep, timing and budget

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.