



Adding a deck to your home is a great way to create additional living space, style and value to your home. Every home addition, even one as simple as a deck, is unique. Use this checklist to learn what goes into designing and building a deck and to help you design and plan your new deck.

DECK CHECKLIST



Identify Current and Future Use: Dining or grilling? Entertaining? Outdoor kitchen? Pool Deck or Hot Tub? Convenient storage options? Privacy concerns? Multi-Level? Potential screen or glass enclosure?

NOTES: _____



Budget: Style, size and materials will be the major factors in estimating the cost of a new deck. A simple, single level, wood deck starts around \$2,500. Very elaborate decks can run into tens of thousands of dollars. Once you have settled on your goals for the deck, set a realistic budget and work within those parameters.

NOTES: _____



Site Preparation: The site of your deck should be free from any obstructions. Make sure the exterior walls of your home are sturdy enough to support a structure such as this, if support is necessary. Determine if your plans affect existing utilities. Will the AC unit need to be moved?

NOTES: _____



Foundation: Do you need to pour concrete footings? Will excavation be necessary? Will you be tearing out an old deck or building over an existing deck? Will plants need to be relocated?

NOTES: _____

DECK CHECKLIST - continued



Access: Do you need steps? Where will they lead? Multiple access points?

NOTES: _____



Building Permit: Research local ordinances and always check with local building code officials to make sure your plans meet code before you start building.

NOTES: _____



Style: Will your deck be at ground level or elevated? Tiered or Multi-level? Pool Deck? Built-in benches or grilling area?

NOTES: _____



Materials: The materials you choose will have a significant effect on the appearance and durability of your deck. Most decks are built with wood, composite or cellular PVC and there are pros and cons to each material.

NOTES: _____



Finishes: Depending on the material you choose for your deck, you'll need to decide how to finish it. For wood decks, your options include staining, sealing or painting. Choose carefully when looking at "maintenance free" options as some may need to be stained or painted as they age.

NOTES: _____



Maintenance: The material you choose will determine how much maintenance is required. Most wood decks should be stained or sealed yearly, while painted decks may need painting every 2-4 years, depending on the elements. Even plastic and composite decks should be cleaned annually with a hose or possibly a power washer for a really good scrubbing.

NOTES: _____

