



Getting Started

There are many practical and financial reasons to add a new deck to your home. Decks increase your home's living space, resale value, and require a much smaller investment than a full addition. Whether your motivation is to spend more time outdoors, improve your home's value, or both, Curtis Lumber has the materials and expertise to help you get your project done right the first time.

What to Expect When Building a Deck

Building a deck is something that anyone with some basic carpentry skills and time can handle. Since decks are built outside, the project will not disrupt your home life and can carry from weekend to weekend without any real issues.

The most important part of the deck building process is the planning stage. A deck is something that will last for years to come. Because of this, you should include anyone who will use the deck to make a wish list of features and ways each will use the deck. This will allow you to hone in on a design that will work, while not breaking the bank. Another great way to get design ideas is to collect photos from magazines or the internet that contain design features you like.

Once you've determined what you think you want, your Curtis Lumber salesperson will walk you through the deck design process, help you to create a plan, select materials, and print a 3-dimensional drawing.

Determining What You Want in a Deck Design

While deck materials, shapes, sizes, and costs can vary widely, there are several design decisions common to almost every deck project. These decisions center on you, and how you plan to use the deck.

- Will you entertain large groups or sunbathe on the deck?
- Do you want the deck to be a private space, or open to a view?
- What will the traffic pattern be?
- Are there weather conditions to consider?
- What is permitted in your local township, housing development, or city?
- Where do you want the deck located? Are there obstacles to avoid?
- Do you plan to leave your barbecue grill on the deck?
- Are you intending to place a table on the deck?

These questions are important. There are four basic areas that must be addressed before any other selections can be made:

- **How You Plan to Use the Deck**
- **Location**
- **Legal Considerations**
- **Deck Size**