



# DECK PLANNING CHECKLIST

## 1. DEFINE YOUR DECK'S PURPOSE

- Will the deck be used for entertaining, relaxing, or both?
- Do you need space for furniture, a grill, or an outdoor kitchen?
- Will you need built-in seating or storage under the deck?
- What size deck do you envision? (Square footage)

## 2. CHOOSE THE RIGHT LOCATION & LAYOUT

- Does your backyard have any slopes or drainage issues?
- Will your deck be in full sun, or do you need shade?
- How will the deck connect to your house? Will stairs be necessary?
- Do you need privacy screens or landscaping?

## 3. SELECT YOUR DECK MATERIALS

- Wood:** Cedar, Redwood, or Pressure-treated lumber?
- Composite Decking:** Durable options like TimberTech, Trex.
- PVC Decking:** Highly resistant to moisture and weather.
- Other:** Do you have any specific material preferences?

## 4. PLAN FOR SAFETY & CODE COMPLIANCE

- Check local building codes (ensure deck meets legal requirements).
- Are footings, beams, and joists sized correctly for your deck's size?
- Will your deck require railings, stairs, or handrails? Verify dimensions.
- Have you obtained the necessary permits for construction?

## 5. BUDGETING AND TIMELINE

- What is your budget for materials, labor, and permits?
- Do you have a contingency budget (20%) for unexpected costs?
- How long do you expect the project to take?
- Will you hire a professional contractor, or it's a DIY project?

## 6. KEY FEATURES TO INCLUDE

- Built-in Features:** Seating, planters, lighting, or storage?
- Deck Functionality:** Hot tub, BBQ area, fire pit, or outdoor kitchen?
- Design Style:** Do you prefer a modern, rustic, or classic look?
- Additional Elements:** Pergolas, shade structures, or privacy walls?

## 7. VERIFY DRAINAGE AND FOUNDATION

- Will your deck be ground-level or elevated?
- Does the foundation need to be adjusted based on soil type?
- Have you addressed proper drainage to prevent water pooling under the deck?

## 8. SCHEDULE INSPECTIONS

- Contact a local building department for inspection requirements.
- Do you need a contractor to help with the structural planning?
- Have you accounted for the timeline of necessary inspections (e.g., footings, final inspection)?

## 9. FINAL TOUCHES

- How often will you clean, seal, or maintain your deck?
- Have you factored in additional décor (lighting, outdoor furniture)?
- Double-check your plans to ensure everything fits within your budget and project timeline.