



# DECK MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

## 1. STRUCTURAL & SAFETY QUESTIONS

- Does the deck feel solid underfoot with no bounce when walking?
- Do railings remain rigid when pushed or pulled?
- Are balusters spaced evenly and securely fastened?
- Is flashing visible and intact where the deck meets the house?

## 2. SURFACE CONDITION QUESTIONS

- Are there cracked, split, or heavily weathered deck boards?
- Do any boards show signs of warping, cupping, or twisting?
- Are there raised nails, popped screws, or sharp fasteners?
- Are stains from food, grease, planters, or rust visible?

## 3. SELECT YOUR DECK MATERIALS

- Do leaves or debris collect between deck boards?
- After rain, does water drain freely or pool on the surface?
- Are shaded areas staying damp longer than exposed sections?
- Is there soil or mulch contacting wood posts or framing?

## 4. FASTENERS & HARDWARE QUESTIONS

- Are any screws or bolts backing out of the deck boards?
- Is there rust or corrosion on fasteners, brackets, or connectors?
- Do stair stringers show rusted or loose hardware?
- Are railing posts securely bolted, not just screwed?



## 5. WOOD DECK—SPECIFIC MAINTENANCE

- Does water bead on the surface or soak into the wood?
- Has the deck been sealed or stained within the last 1–3 years?
- Are there signs of rot at posts, stairs, or ledger connections?
- Has sanding been done before resealing?

## 6. COMPOSITE DECK MAINTENANCE

- Are there cracked, split, or heavily weathered deck boards?
- Do any boards show signs of warping, cupping, or twisting?
- Are there raised nails, popped screws, or sharp fasteners?
- Are stains from food, grease, planters, or rust visible?

## 7. SEASONAL READINESS QUESTIONS

- Has debris from snow and ice melt been removed?
- Did winter cause new cracks, fastener movement, or gaps?
- Are leaves cleared regularly?
- Has furniture been removed or elevated for winter?

## 8. SAFETY & LIABILITY QUESTIONS

- Are stairs and elevation changes well lit?
- Do stair treads have adequate traction when wet?
- Are railings at least 36 inches high?
- Are baluster gaps under 4 inches?

## 9. CLEANING & SURFACE CARE QUESTIONS

- Has the deck been cleaned within the last 12 months?
- Is dirt, pollen, or organic debris visibly built up?
- Was a cleaner used that matches the deck material?
- Are there residue marks from improper cleaning?