

Deck Budget Worksheet

Map every line item before you ask for a single quote

Use this worksheet to estimate your deck budget category by category. These are planning numbers, not quotes — your real price depends on size, material, height, footings, railings, stairs, and your area.



1. The big drivers

- Decking material (pressure-treated \$15–30 / cedar \$25–45 / composite \$35–60 / PVC \$45–75 per sq ft installed)
- Approximate deck size in square feet (length × width)
- Height off the ground (taller decks need more footings and railings)

2. Structure & safety

- Footings and posts (depth depends on your frost line)
- Framing — beams and joists
- Railings (cost rises with linear feet and material)
- Stairs (each step and landing adds cost)

3. The line items people forget

- Permit fees and inspection
- Old deck demolition and haul-away (if replacing)

- Lighting, skirting, or built-in seating
- A contingency of 10–15% for surprises



— 4. Compare apples to apples

When quotes come back, check that each one covers the same material, the same size, the same railing and stair count, and who pulls the permit. The cheapest number on the phone is not always the real bill. Confirm the price and scope in writing before any deposit.