

Deck Planning Checklist

From first idea to final inspection

A simple step-by-step path to plan your deck without surprises.



— Step 1 — Decide what you want

- How you'll use the deck (dining, lounging, grilling, hot tub)
- Rough size and shape
- Material: wood, composite, or PVC (weigh upfront cost vs upkeep)

— Step 2 — Set a budget

- Use the cost-per-square-foot ranges as a starting point
- Add permits, railings, stairs, and a contingency

— Step 3 — Get matched & compare

- Request 2–3 quotes from licensed, insured builders
- Compare the same scope across each quote
- Confirm who pulls the permit



— Step 4 — Build & inspect

- Sign a written contract with scope, price, and dates
- Confirm the permit is pulled before work starts
- Make sure the work passes inspection before final payment
- Keep all paperwork and warranties