

How to Build a Simple Deck

If you're looking for a quick and easy way to build a deck, you've come to the right place. This article will guide you through the process, from the first step of determining your needs to installing the deck and footings. You'll also learn how to properly trim the ends and snug the deck under your door thresholds.

Install footings

If you are preparing to build a simple deck, you'll need to install footings. This can be done with a power auger or by hand. Depending on your location, it can be a labor-intensive process. You should wear safety glasses and protective clothing.

There are various types of footings, but the most basic is the buried post and footing. A concrete tube pier can also be used.

Before installing any footings, it's important to check your local building codes and zoning laws. Your local utility department might have restrictions, such as minimum or maximum depth. Besides, some areas have freeze-thaw cycles that can impact your foundation.

Lay the decking at right angles to the house

It's important to make sure that you lay the decking at right angles to the house. This will provide a stronger front edge for your deck.

Start by measuring the area you're going to cover. You can measure in feet or metres. If you're not comfortable using a ruler, you can use a chalk line to mark your angle.

You can also measure the length of your deck. You'll need to determine how many joists you'll need to support the deck. The number will depend on the design of your deck. Typically, you'll need four outer joists and three inner joists.

Once you've determined the total length, it's time to cut the rim joists. You can do this with a circular saw or handsaw. Be sure to cut them to the same length.

Trim the ends of the decking

When you are building a simple deck, you may want to trim the ends of your decking boards. Trimming the ends will give the deck a cleaner, more finished look. It will also help direct water away from the joist.

To get started with trimming, measure the length of your decking from one end to the other. If you aren't sure, use a string line to ensure you get the measurement right. You will want to make sure the string lines are five feet apart.

Next, mark the decking to the edge of the board with a chalk line. A circular saw can be used to cut off the edges of the boards.

Determine footings along the outside corners

If you are building a simple deck on your home, you'll need to determine footings along the outside corners. These footings will support the posts that will be set in the center of the deck. You can do this easily with a couple of simple steps.

The first step in determining footings along the outside corners of a simple deck is to establish a straight line to the house. This can be done by driving stakes or using a string.

When you have made a straight line, you can mark it with a perpendicular string. A plumb bob can be used to mark the perpendicular or parallel to the ground. For more precise measurements, it's a good idea to use a cloth tape measure.

Snug the deck under door thresholds

When you're replacing a door threshold, you need to be smart about the type of sealant you use. A solid wood spacer can be added to provide a secure seal, while expanding foam sealant can be used to provide a tighter seal. The following tips can help you choose the right product for your project.

First, measure the threshold's height. This will enable you to install a spacer in the correct spot. You will want to add one-eighth of an inch to the length of the threshold. If you don't have a measuring tape handy, you can measure the threshold using your fingertip.

Consult with a landscape architect

If you're planning a new landscape for your home or yard, it's not a bad idea to consult with a landscape architect first. Getting a professional's opinion can help you determine what's feasible for your budget and time frame.

First, think about the things you want out of the landscape. You might want to improve the overall value of your property, build a saltwater pool, or increase the appeal of your backyard. The most important part of this process is getting a clear vision of what you want.

During the consultation, the landscape architect will ask you a series of questions to get a better idea of your goals. He or she will also make a few suggestions and take a look around your yard to see what your preferences are.