



Canada's **Building** Centre

Project Of The Month

Decks



PROJECT OF THE MONTH: DECKS



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Build the deck of your dreams

This month we're going to show you how a deck can be the perfect addition to your home. Their timeless beauty and versatile functionality can provide families with an outdoor retreat, a space to relax and a place to entertain. In today's climate with COVID-19, building a deck also creates a safe space for families and friends to gather outdoors. A deck is a worthy investment that will add value to your property and extend your living area, while bringing you closer with nature.

With the right materials and maintenance, decks can last you a lifetime. There are options from innovative, eco-friendly composite decking made from recycled materials to traditional pressure treated wood. Customize your dream deck to suit your style and personality with unique colours, finishes and laying patterns. Enjoy decorating your new outdoor oasis with accessories like sun lounges, throw cushions, potted plants and a dining area. Depending on your property, decks can also be incorporated at the front of the house, so you can follow the sun and watch the world go by.

Our TIMBER MART Deck Experts are here to help you design and build the deck of your dreams. We have everything you need to build the ultimate deck, including high-quality building materials and the right tools to get the job done. Contact your local TIMBER MART for more decking inspiration and advice.



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The artistry of a Trex deck

For homeowners seeking a deck with unparalleled performance and aesthetic beauty, Trex is the way to go. Not only will your deck deliver sleek sophistication, it will require minimal upkeep meaning more time enjoying - less time maintaining. In fact, you never need to worry about sanding, staining or painting - just an occasional soap and water cleaning keeps it looking new for decades. Trex composites look more natural than ever before with a variety of colour options for incredible design flexibility to suit the style of any home. There are now five composite decking products in their lineup designed for every budget. Trex also offers a wide selection of outdoor living products ranging from railings and stairs to gates and lighting - all designed to complement their world-famous decking while delivering the style and performance for which Trex is known. Talk to a TIMBER MART Deck Expert to learn more about the benefits of a Trex composite deck.



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Build a deck, get rewarded



X



Rewarding Canadians, every day™†



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Five ways to improve a deck



1 Privacy

Create a more intimate setting and block out your neighbours or unwanted traffic by adding privacy to your deck and living space. Privacy can be added with lattice or decorative panels, fencing, fast growing plants and greenery. The right materials can also help provide a noise barrier, especially if you add a water feature. If your neighbours overlook your yard, consider a canopy for privacy, which doubles as sun protection. Nuvo Iron's adjustable louvers, pictured above, open and close allowing you to choose when you want extra shade or more privacy. Not only will you be adding privacy with these louvers, you'll be incorporating a stylish detail as well. By including privacy in your overall deck design, you will be able to truly relax in your garden oasis and entertain your guests in peace.



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2 Shade

Adding shade to your deck will protect you from the elements and help keep you cool and comfortable in hotter temperatures. There are many products on the market that are built to withstand the heat and help block out the sun, depending on your style and budget. A patio umbrella with a weighted base is a simple and efficient way to add shade to a small space. For larger spaces and added protection, a shade sail is a great option to help deflect heat. For a more permanent solution, shade can be created by adding a stylish pergola to your deck with lattice and climbing plants. Palruf PVC panels by Vicwest can be incorporated into your pergola or used to cover a porch. These corrugated roofing panels can be coloured, clear or a combination of both to allow extra light to shine through.

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3 Lighting

Take your deck to the next level with lighting. Different types of lighting can add ambiance as the sun goes down, while also adding security to your outdoor living area. For perfect mood lighting, you can't go wrong with overhead string lights. Fairy lights or clear Christmas lights can be used year round to create a festive atmosphere. Alternatively, permanent in-floor lighting is a great option for lighting up corners and heavy foot traffic areas with low voltage. If you have a fence railing, post cap lights or under-rail deck lighting is an ideal solution that can be easily incorporated on most decks. Lighting options are often available in both LED and solar powered versions that can save you money in the long run. Other lighting options include spotlights, sensor lights and decorative lanterns.

4 Railing

Deck railings not only add a safety element to your deck, they can also add a decorative aesthetic. Railings don't have to be plain or simple – there are lots of stylish designs to choose from in wood, composite, aluminum or stainless steel. Vista Railings have a large selection of railings to choose from, including classic picket, mixed material, modern cable, glass or frameless glass – perfect for an unobstructed view. Trex railing systems also offer high-quality composite and aluminum railings that can be mixed and matched. For a seamless design, pressure treated wood balusters can be matched to complement your home's exterior colour. Alternatively you can choose a railing that is unique and makes a statement. An important detail to consider is the height of the railing. Take note of your local building codes for your new railing to ensure you are meeting safety requirements.

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5 Stain



SICO



SICO

Best practices for successfully staining your deck



SICO

Tutorial: how to stain your deck



SICO

Helpful tips for exterior stains



OLYMPIC

How to tell if your deck needs stain

Is your deck looking a little tired and weathered? A great way to give it an instant update is by applying stain. Not only will it look great, it will also protect the wood and increase its longevity. Look for a stain that has a high resistance to water penetration and protects against harmful UV rays. Stains come in a variety of opacities, from transparent to solid colour. The more solid the opacity, the less wood you will see through the stain. Colour is another important consideration. Deck stains used to be limited to shades of brown but now they are available in almost every colour. Classic brown is still the number one go-to colour but consider adding interest to your outdoor space with a unexpected stain colour. Before you begin your project, let the Experts at PPG, Sico and Olympic offer their helpful tips, how-to videos and essential steps necessary to keep your deck looking good for years.



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Deck stair design

Deck stairs can be a key architectural detail in your overall deck design but first and foremost they have to be safe for those using them. Find out your local building codes and include those requirements in your design. The shape and height of your deck will make some of your design decisions for you. Typically, if you have more than 3 or 4 risers depending on where you live, you will need a railing. If your deck is taller than a certain height requirement in your area, you will need a landing between the deck and the ground. You will also need a 3-to-4-foot walkway to and from the stairs. Make sure your stairs will be wide enough to handle the significant foot traffic they're likely to accommodate, at least 3 feet wide. Once you understand all the safety requirements for your particular deck project, then you can decide on placement and style elements. Where people naturally enter or leave the deck will be the best location for your stairs. If you are building a large deck and need to access different areas, you may need more than one set of stairs. For a grander look, build your stairs wider than the code minimum. If you are building a multi-level deck, consider connecting each level with a wide expanse of stairs that run the whole width of each level. One of the most visual elements of your deck will be your choice of railing. Deck railing manufacturers have angled stair railing options for a seamless look. An important safety feature for stairs is lighting and it's easier to integrate stair lighting in the construction stage rather than adding it later. Some railings offer integrated lighting options. While considering all these details, also keep in mind your abilities as a DIY-er. The more complicated the design, the more your skill level should be.

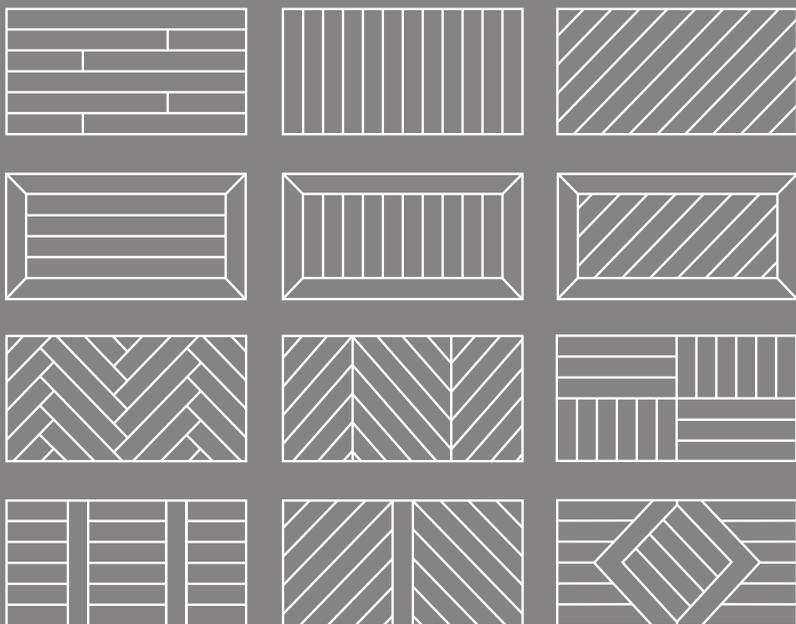


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Create pattern with decking

When you think of the style of deck you want to build, what first comes to mind is the outside shape of the deck, the type of decking material and the finished colour. While these are important considerations, another design feature is the deck laying pattern. The most common is the traditional horizontal pattern with deck boards laying end to end and parallel to each other. Boards are staggered with the first row a full plank, the second row started with a plank cut one-third shorter, the third row started with a plank cut an additional one-third shorter and then repeat. While this is a very practical pattern with the least amount of cuts, it can also be an expensive pattern. Long decking boards come at a premium price. When planning your deck project, keep this in mind. Creating a unique deck pattern is a good way to add visual interest to your space and possibly save money at the same time. Depending on the pattern, you may not need to purchase expensive lengths of decking material and you'll also be able to use up the smaller cut pieces. Or, if you build your deck with long lengths, perhaps build a separate smaller level in a different pattern as a way to use up the smaller cuts of deck material. There is no limit to the number of pattern designs to choose from. Choose a pattern that compliments your home and surrounding backyard. Keep in mind that more intricate patterns may need a specialized substructure to support the smaller cuts. Have questions? Talk to a TIMBER MART Deck Expert when planning your project. We have the practical knowledge to help you build the perfect deck.



Build it with your Deck Project Card*



Buy now, pay later makes it easy to offset the cost of your backyard project for up to 6 months when you use your TIMBER MART credit card.



Click here to apply for financing instantly online or text Timbermart to 75837 (French 51767).



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A strong foundation starts with a good footing

Before you begin your deck project, your first step should be to consult your local building codes for regulations about deck foundations. Once you know what is allowable in your area, you can plan the footing that is right for your deck.



Concrete For the average DIY-er, regular concrete mix sold by the bag is convenient and easily prepared by adding water and mixing. Use a bucket or wheelbarrow and mix to the manufacturers specifications. Rapid-post concrete is designed for fast setting of posts and poles below grade with no bracing required. Simply pour simultaneously with water from bag into hole and then agitate with a rod or stick.



Concrete form tubes

A single-use, heavy duty cardboard form creates a column of concrete to use as a sturdy footing. Forms are lightweight and available in assorted diameters and lengths. Rule-of-thumb is to use a tube diameter 3 times the post width, for instance, use a 12" diameter tube for a 4x4" post. Tubes can be sawed to desired length with a circular or reciprocating saw.



Bigfoot Concrete footing form designed to be used in conjunction with concrete form tubes to strengthen overall structural support and stability. Footing with tube is buried, then filled with concrete. When properly installed, the unique bell-shape eliminates air pockets and acts as an anchor to prevent uplift. Made of sturdy, lightweight, recycled, high density polyethylene plastic.



Deck block

Deck blocks are slotted precast concrete blocks used to hold beams, joists and posts for deck and fence support structures. They have good load-bearing abilities and, when used correctly, make an excellent foundation for small to medium ground-level decks. It's best to check your local building code to see if they're allowed for your type of structure.



Post anchors

Secure your posts with Simpson Strong-Tie Rebar Carport Saddles (RCPS). They are ideal for anchoring posts to concrete and may be installed in wet set concrete or retro-fitted using an anchoring adhesive. These saddles are hot-dipped galvanized, and/or powder coated, and rated for outdoor use. Available in a variety of sizes including 4x4 and 6x6 posts.

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WORKS. PERIOD.

Decking construction adhesives Solid from the floor up!

The strength and solidity of outdoor flooring are essential components of any building project. When installing decking, whether it be with wood or composite lumber, a quality decking adhesive can make a real difference in ensuring longevity and stability of the structure. Supplementing nails, screws, and other traditional fasteners with a deck adhesive is a great way to achieve stronger and more durable results over time.

There are a number of deck components that can benefit from the use of a construction adhesive, including stairs, skirting, baseboards, fascia, railings, and decorative caps and trim. It is important to select the construction adhesive with the right performance characteristics for these various applications. The adhesive must be strong enough to remain durable over time, but also provide enough elasticity to absorb the regular movement, impact, and potential shrinkage some flooring materials may face over time.

For a decking adhesive with a powerful, permanent bond, try LePage® PL® 400 Subfloor & Deck Construction Adhesive, which sets fast and is ideal for exterior decking installations in all types of environmental conditions, including bonding wet and frozen lumber. The adhesive also prevents uneven flooring, bridges gaps between surfaces to help eliminate squeaks, and reduces the use of nails and fasteners. When using the proper decking construction adhesive, the result is a stronger & sturdier deck that will hold up for the long haul!



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Building a deck or fence using these accessories will make it easier and faster



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As with most projects the right tools will make the construction of a deck or fence easier and faster. Here's some help choosing the right power tool accessories for the best results.



4" or 6" long screw driver bit

One of the most tedious tasks is securing the decking. Save your back! Use a 4" or 6" screwdriver bit. Those couple of inches make a big difference!



Mason's line with line level

Make sure your deck is square and level. A line level on a piece of mason's line will make sure you trim the support columns accurately so your deck is level over the entire span.

High speed steel drill bit When drilling in wood regular High Speed Steel drill bits are a good choice. A 135° split point tip will help prevent the bit from skating on the wood's surface insuring accurate hole placement. If a lot of drilling is required in pressure treated wood consider a titanium nitride coated drill bit as the wood preservatives can be quite abrasive causing the bit to lose its edge more quickly.



Auger bit For drilling many large diameter holes in thicker timbers where a clean hole is required choose an auger bit. The threaded tip helps pull the bit through the wood and the robust cutting edge and cutting spur that carves the circumference of the hole insures an exceptionally accurate and clean hole.

Masonry drill bit Need to attach one edge of the deck to the concrete foundation of your home? Don't forget a masonry drill bit and lead anchors to attach the wood ledger board to your foundation.



Spade bit For fast and inexpensive larger diameter holes in cedar or pressure treated wood a spade bit is an economical option. While the hole may be quickly drilled it will be quite rough where the spade bit exits the wood.



Circular saw blade

The higher the tooth count the smoother the cut. A 7 1/4" blade with 40 carbide teeth will ensure a clean cut, with no splintering on the cut end, and will hold its edge against the abrasive wood preservatives.

MIBRO