

HOW TO BUILD A DECK

ADAM WEST

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How To Build A Deck

<http://howtobuilddecking.com>

By Adam West

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Guide to Building A Deck

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Your Deck Building Guide

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All people who spend grueling hours at work every single day would naturally want to look forward to coming home to a safe and restful haven. What can be more invigorating than enjoying the breathtaking view of the world in the comforting solace of your backyard? This can be easily accomplished by building a deck to effectively extend your home space and provide a wonderful of enjoying the fruits of your labor. In fact, with an increasing number of people who are valiantly coping with stress, a deck or a patio design is definitely one of the refreshing ways to rejuvenate the senses.

It is quite interesting to know that the fad of building a deck in American homes is actually considered as a relatively new phenomenon, as it has only been made popular over the past 40 - 50 years. It is primarily considered as an extended space for entertaining guests and a place to gather people and socialize over sumptuous fares. The most common problem that many residential owners encounter in building a deck is the design clash with the house structure and the additional deck. Since it is prominently constructed, it can create a big impact in the overall look and appeal of the home. Creating and building a deck that will best complement your home can be a little tricky and would often require professional help. This can be achieved by incorporating the original design concepts of the home to make sure it will blend quite well with the rest of the building structure.

The choice of materials is yet another bone of contention in building a deck. Redwood is among the top favorites of homeowners since it offers exceptional aesthetic value as well as provides great performance. Since decks are more exposed to the outdoor weather, it is critically important to choose materials that can easily withstand extreme weather conditions. Luckily, there are more than a handful of choices available today such as vinyl, aluminum, wood and

glass railing combinations. Your flooring options should have waterproof features and a more convenient maintenance care.

Carefully consider the existing architectural design of your home and if you have adapted any architectural influences make sure it is also reflected in the design of your deck. With careful consideration and meticulous planning, you can definitely look forward to enjoying a more relaxing and comfortable home atmosphere at the end of the day.

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Important Factors To Consider in Building Decks

For many homeowners, extending the living space is one of the best ways to enjoy the beauty of the outdoors and at the same take advantage of an extra space for entertaining friends and family members. Decks are among the popular choices these days, as it effectively gives the home exterior a more interesting and welcoming dimension, and allow homeowners to simply laze around and spend the day in comfortable leisure, especially during spring and summer seasons.

However, before you make plans on building decks, there are a handful of considerations that you need to carefully take into account.

To help you in making the necessary decisions, there are the important factors in building decks:

Location – ask yourself, where should your decks be constructed? One common characteristic of a sound is when the design is stylishly blended with the rest of the backyard environment, all without being overly visible and obtrusive. If you are lucky enough to have a wonderful view in your yard, then make sure to take advantage of this and showcase its beauty through the strategic placement of your decks. If you have some privacy issues with your neighbors, or want

to avoid the traffic noise, then make sure to take all these factors in consideration of your location to eliminate possible problems in the future.

Construction – another important aspect that you need to deliberate on is to whether to have the deck directly connected to your home or not. To help you decide, you need to consider the possible amount of traffic in the said area. This is especially critical when decks are directly connected with the living, as people who walk in an out may disrupt people in the living room, or soil the flooring systems. Some people prefer connecting decks to the kitchen for easier access and enhanced convenience. You can also consider making two connecting doors that will lead to different rooms in the house for a more efficient solution in managing house traffic.

Usage - ask yourself what is the primary reason for building a deck. If you have a rather limited space or if are not really fond of throwing large parties, then a smaller sized deck would be a more practical option for you. Build a deck that would best suit your needs, in consideration to the size of your family, house dimension, as well as the land area of your property.

So now that you know the important elements to consider in building decks, you can now go ahead and make all the necessary plans in stylishly extending your living space.

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Top Popular Wooden Deck Materials

One of the most critical aspects that every residential owner should take into account when building a deck would be the choice of materials to be used in the construction. While there may be numerous deck materials readily available today, wood is still the unprecedented choice in offering both unrivaled beauty and longevity. However, even if you narrow your search to wooden decks, you will probably be confused with the handful selection that you would need to choose from. So here are some brief descriptions on the different types of wooden deck materials that you might want to take into consideration:

Pressure Treated Wood – this is said to be the most popular choice of deck materials in the United States to date, primarily because it comes less expensive than other wood and is known to be highly durable. About 80% of the pressure treated wood available today is the Southern yellow pine, which features prominent grain pattern, and with the distinct greenish hue that will eventually wear off and develop a warm honey tone that creates a striking finish. This type of wood is almost available in every lumber shop, this search will not turn out to be looking for a needle in a haystack.

Western Red Cedar – the colors of the newly cut cedar would usually range from tan to light browns, and even salmon pink. If the wood is left untreated, the wood color will eventually turn to a silvery gray hue to dark brown. While this type of wood falls under the soft wood category, it is known to be more durable than most of the wooden deck materials that are commonly used since it is quite resistant to rot and decay but also has the tendency to quickly weather, which is why experts advise some preservative or sealing treatment to add more protection to the wood.

Redwood – this type of wood is largely available in several grades that considerably vary in quality and appearance. Colors can range from the dark reddish brown to light red and are widely categorized in grades such as the clear heart, construction heart, and B-grade. The best

choice is the clear heart grade since it is undoubtedly more durable than all other redwood grades and displays high resistance to rot and decay.

Mahogany – this choice may present a rather tricky selection, since mahogany is available in large varieties. However, the Honduran and the Philippine mahogany are known to be the best and popular choices since it is considered to be the truest form of mahogany that displays the woven look with coarser grain textures.

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Some Things to Consider for your Deck Design

When doing a deck right at your own backyard, there are some things to consider before finally doing a deck design.

Location, location, location - In every deck design situation, it is very important to determine your location. See to it that you and your guests are comfortable enough on your outdoors. In most cases, decks are normally located at the back of your home where your hose bibs, your dryer vents and your chimneys are normally located. With that, see to it that you have determined the clearance you need for your deck design. Also, consider what is buried under your yard. As much as possible, do not cover your well, the propane tanks or the septic tank so that you will not end up worrying much about certain problems in the long run.

Size - Your deck design also needs you to consider for the size of your deck. Do not make a deck that is way too huge for your house. If you have a very small yard, then creating a small deck should follow. Consider also the number of occupants at your home. If you have a big family, then it is normal that you provide enough deck space at your yard. Or if you love to invite your guests for barbecue parties during weekends, see to it that your deck can accommodate your guests.

Height - The height of your deck design should typically not more than four inches below your door threshold. It is also preferable that you build step on your front doors and then lower your deck to about fourteen to sixteen inches below the threshold of the doors.

Enhancements - You should also be aware of enhancements to add to your deck designs.

Since decks are for the outdoors, it is practical that you provide pieces of patio furniture that can be placed on strategic spots of your decks. See to it that the pieces of patio furniture you will use can withstand any possible weather conditions. Visit your local home furnishing shops to learn more about the many choices you can choose for enhancing your deck design.

Cost - This is very crucial to your deck design plans because the outcome of your decks depend on how much you are willing to spend for it. The more costly you want your decks to be, the more elegant they tend to become because you will be using top of the line materials for your decks. However, whether you have a very expensive deck or not, make it a point that you create something the fits with your taste and your budget.

Before you plan for any deck design, see to it that you are aware of the basic things that you need to know. That way, your deck design planning will be worry-free and hassle-free.

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Where to Find the Best Deck Design Ideas

In designing your outdoors, or any designing situations for that matter, your creativity plays a vital role. It takes time and a lot of thinking in creating unique deck designs for your outdoor living spaces. That is why, it is essential for you to gather the right deck design ideas so that you will no longer have to think much about what you want your decks and your outdoors to look like.

There are a hundred possible ways on where you can find the best deck design ideas. The first

and perhaps the most convenient way is thru the Internet. The Internet these days offer a lot of possibilities to the customers, and one of this is deck design ideas. With just a few clicks of the mouse, you will be conveniently walked thru to a lot of deck designs that can help you in deciding which design is better for you. What is good about doing this online is that you will have the chance to see the designs in very clear pictures that can easily make your decision-making easier and hassle free.

If you do not wish to browse thru the Internet, another great way to gather deck design ideas is thru home gardening books. Most of the home gardening books also cover your deck design ideas from the simplest to the most complicated yet still inviting ones. When doing research for deck design ideas, this is very helpful because you can easily carry around your book while doing your decks or your gardens. Additionally, they also show you pictures plus step by step methods to keep your deck designing not only enjoyable but learning as well.

Another practical way to gather the best deck design ideas is to get it from deck design software. This method is also what most homeowners prefer because aside from unique deck designs, most of the deck design software suites offer virtual step-by-step instructions to teach you the basics of deck designing, thus making professional landscapers not that needed.

However, if the Internet, the gardening books, and the deck designing software suites do not match to your expectations, the last resort would be to seek the professional help and advice of your landscapers and exterior decorators. These people are generally trained and polished with the art of landscaping and exterior designing.

Choosing the right deck design ideas can sometimes be confusing because of the many choices being offered. However, if you think of it on the positive side, putting your own creativity at your designs can help a lot. Not only will you be able to see and discover the creative talent in you, but also you can be proud of yourself of what you have achieved.

A growing number of American residential owners today have resolutely taken up the challenge of constructing and accomplishing numerous home improvement projects without seeking professional help. These new breed of do-it-yourselfers have truly redefined the modern homeowners of today and have taken upon themselves to educate and learn various tricks of the trade sans the experience and expertise to speak of.

If you find yourself to be among these highly creative individuals, then it's best to learn a few handy things about deck construction. Generally, a deck is considered to be a floor structure, more than just an extension to your living space. Deck construction primarily consists of the decking or flooring material, beams and posts that holds the whole unit up from the ground. There are a number of deck designs to choose from depending on your personal preference and functional requirements. Among the popular deck construction today are the rectangular, square, free form and the multilevel designs that never seem to add an interesting detail to any home exterior. As with any other home improvement projects, careful planning can significantly help in saving time and money in the long run, so make sure to make also the necessary considerations to avoid making costly mistakes.

Among the major elements that are required in deck construction includes concrete footings, concrete piers, ledger, posts, joists, beams, rim joists, and decking. So people often opt to include other structural enhancements such as railings, stairs and benches. Since the deck is primarily an exterior structure, the materials used should be able to withstand constant direct exposure to extreme weather conditions. This means that if you want to use wood for your deck construction, it should be rot resistant. Among the great choices for wooden beams, post, and joints are the pressure treated lumbers that are known to provide sturdy support. As for the deck

flooring material, the clear winners are cypress, redwood, and cedar, on the other hand, the piers and footings are usually made of concrete that are precast or those that are poured into place to effectively support the weight of the structure. If you deck construction is directly attached to a part of, an end of the deck should be supported by a level pressure treated post, ledger boards should also be bolted to the frame or foundation of the house.

There are a number of online sites that readily offers step-by-step guides and helpful tips for deck construction. If you have no experience in construction of any type of structures, then it's best to allow the professionals to do it.

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Composite Decks and Retractable Awnings

Architecturally, decks are flat surfaces designed to be capable of supporting weight. They function similarly to floors, but differ as decks are often utilized for outdoor use. They are oftentimes utilized in connecting various sections of a house or building, as well as structures which complement garden landscape designs, as well as alternatives to the more stone based of patios. Decks are often constructed to be elevated from the ground, with some wide enough to serve as lounging areas where people could relax after a long day.

Historically, wood was used in the construction of decks. Lumber from trees like the Western Red Cedar, the Redwood and the Atlantic White Cedar were used in deck construction, but were soon stopped, as the over logging of these trees posed to be a problem. Today, composite decks stand to be one of the most popular of decks. Composite decks are basically decks made from composite material, like wood fibers, which are often called composite lumber. Composite decks are quite sturdy, and rather no different from the various other classes of materials utilized in deck construction, in the general sense of the term of course. Other materials utilized in deck construction would include treated lumber, teak, mahogany, Ipe, hardwoods, even aluminum, and high density polystyrene (PS), high density polyethylene (HDPE), and PET plastics, as well as other classes of mixed plastics.

As decks are outdoor structures, composite decks stand to be quite sturdy enough to withstand the outdoor elements of rain and sunlight. To further protect composite decks, owners often add retractable awnings, as roofs for their composite decks.

These retractable awnings don't just benefit a composite deck's condition, as those "on deck" could also garner some benefits from them. Sudden rains would no longer be a problem, as well as direct sunlight. With retractable awnings, composite deck owners are not as limited with fixed roofs over their decks. Retractable awnings come in two general classes, one being the

automatic variety, the other being the manual class of retractable awnings. The automatic variety of retractable awnings is motor operated, making their use rather easy and convenient. Manual retractable awnings, which basically serve no different purpose as automatic retractable awnings, depend on manual brute force in their successful operations.

If you are planning on setting up a deck in your home or building, getting a composite deck, and rigging it with retractable awnings would be the way to go.

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Wood vs. Composite Decking Materials

Composite decking materials are actually products that consist of a number of different recycled materials, but are mainly composed of wood and plastic. This newest alternative came about to provide effective solution to the common problems that are often encountered with the use of the traditional wood decking. As you might have already gathered, even the sturdiest wood will eventually succumb to molds, rots, fade, splinters and cracks after a period of time. Even more so since decks would be exposed to the outdoor elements and would often require expensive sealing treatments as part of its maintenance care. It was a little more than a decade ago, when composite decking materials was introduced to the market and have presented a wonderful solution to the common woes associated with wooden decks.

The greatest advantage with the use of composite decking is its durability and low maintenance requirements. Although this type of material is considerably more expensive than the typical hardwood, composite decking materials can definitely be considered a sound investment in the long run. Why? While a wood deck would require a lesser cash outlay, residential owners will be required to shell out money on a regular basis for repairs and maintenance care. With the use of composite decking materials, you only have to clean the surface every once in a while, and you are sure to enjoy its original beauty from the years to come.

So what are its drawbacks, if any? People would always claim that no man-made material could ever truly replace the beauty and natural patina of real wood. This is why there are still a lot of people who wouldn't mind spending extra on meticulous care just to enjoy the rich warmth and feel of real wood. There are also some manufacturers of composite decking materials that are selling low-grade products and have cast the material in a bad light since they were not able to live up to their promise. Which is why, if you ever so decide to use composite materials, make sure to invest in a well-known brand that will offer you good quality.

So what would be the best material for your deck? There are several factors that you need to consider in making such decision, such as the design requirements, floor traffic, budget as well as your personal lifestyle and preference. Take your time in taking into account these important elements to help you decide which type of material would work best for your home.

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What You Need to Know About Pressure-treated Wood

As anyone would readily attest, no man-made material can quite rival the natural and understated beauty of wood. This fact still holds true when it comes to building a deck in home to extend your living space. Despite the high maintenance cost, replacements and repair of wood for outdoor structures, there are numerous people who wouldn't mind spending extra just to enjoy the comforting and elegant warmth of real wood decks.

Among the common problems with the use of wood is the possible infestation of termites, cracks and splinters, as well as rot and decay. However, the availability of pressure-treated wood can significantly help in preserving the beauty of wood all without sacrificing the quality of the material. Pressure treatment is generally a process of forcing some chemical preservatives and special treatments into the wood. This is done by placing the wood into a special enclosed cylinder, where both pressure and vacuum is applied in order to force the injection of preservations into the grains. This makes pressure-treated wood materials practically impervious to any fungal, insects and termite attacks.

The most common types of pressure treatments used today includes Oil-borne, waterborne, Creosote – which are the three classes of preservatives that are popularly used for pressure-treated wood. The waterborne treatment is typically used for commercial, industrial and residential structures. On the other hand, the Creosote is mainly for the treatment for railroad

ties, timbers and guardrail posts that are used in marine structures. Oil-borne is for treating utility poles and cross arms.

Known to be the wood from all season and highly recommended for outdoor structures, pressure-treated wood can easily withstand the harsh weather conditions and still be able to retain its original beauty. This alone makes it an ideal option for decks, porches picnic table, and almost everything else that would be directly exposed to the weather. The great thing is pressure-treated wood is now made available in several forms depending on your construction needs, such as: lumber, plywood, posts and boards. However, there have been some alarming concerns with the hazards of using pressure-treated materials as it is said to pose serious threat to human health. When using this material, one should be extra careful when dealing with the sawdust, as it is a well-known irritant to the eyes, nose and skin. Be sure to use a good quality dust mask as well as prevent direct contact on skin by wearing protective gloves. It is also important to know that the sawdust should never be burned under any known circumstances since the smoke can be highly toxic. So if you are no expert in dealing with this kind of material, it is best to rely on the expertise of a trained professional to get the job done with minimum fuss.

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Top Four Deck Railing Designs

Deck railings are the ones that generally provide finishing touches of your decks. The most important thing to consider when it comes to deck railing designs is safety. In choosing the proper deck railing designs, there are a lot of choices for you. Below is four of the most popular deck railing designs that you can consider if you plan on having a deck railing at home.

Typical Builder Deck Railings - These types of deck railing designs are those beveled 2x2 inch wood pickets that are fastened firmly to the 2x6 inch edge at the top part before finally fastened onto the rim joist of a deck.

Custom Wood Deck Railing Designs - These particular designs are made from wood and are designed according to the preference of the customer. Any size and shape can actually be done, provided that you approach professionals in this craft. Today, we see a number of wood railing designers that offer wide varieties of interesting deck railing designs that can certainly make your decks inviting all the more.

Pre-fabricated Vinyl Deck Railing Designs - Aside from looking classy, these types of deck railing designs are also very durable. Aluminum can be inserted into the wooden deck railings to add stability and durability. These pre-fabricated aluminum railings can easily be found on most lumberyards. These often make use of tempered glass inserts or Plexiglas that can be purchased on hardware stores or even custom-made. There are also deck railing designs that make use of metals that range from old welded materials to those architectural metals that are finished with aluminum-powder coats.

Composite Deck Railings - Some of the deck railing designs these days also offer composite deck railings that are usually composed of some metal reinforcement that look very neat. You can visit hardware shops and home furnishing stores for you to find these types of deck railing designs.

Your outdoors is one important part of your home that needs to be enhanced, let alone, be created with the most inviting and comfortable atmosphere. Deck railings can easily put class and elegance to your outdoors, provided that they are done with the best possible deck railing designs.

Finding the deck railing designs can be very easy, especially if you have an Internet connection at home. With just a few clicks of the mouse, you can easily find interesting designs that you can then show to professional landscapers that will do the actual designs. That way, your deck railings will surely stand out above the others.

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Type of Decks

There are many types of decks in the world of architecture and design, decks are basically flat surfaces which serve purposes no different from that of floors, as these types of decks are items designed to support varying degrees of weights. This entails the type of decks when one talks about architecture and decks. They are oftentimes constructed for outdoor use, and are often used to connect the various sections of a home. They are often used, again, to connect various sections of a home, or to complement a home garden's landscape design, as well as alternatives to the more stone based of patios. Historically, decks in one's home were made from Western Red Cedar, Redwood and Atlantic White Cedar. But due to the vast over logging of these trees, a number of wood alternatives, as well as material alternatives are now being utilized in decking, which also refers to the construction of decks. In the 1960s, the logging of Western Red Cedar was being more regulated, due to environmental concerns.

These days, a number of materials could be utilized in the construction of decks, for the more traditional of decks, to the more divers of deck designs. Deck materials include composite material, treated lumbers/timbers, Teak, Mahogany, Ipe, even aluminum, recycled planks, high-density polystyrene, polyethylene and PET plastics, as well as wood fibers and other mixed plastics.

Typically, types of decks are determined by their function, which comes about from their construction needs. One example of a type of deck that is used in the construction of boardwalks, which are constructed over sand on barrier islands.

Many decks are often complemented with retractable awnings, which provide shelter against rain and sunlight. These retractable awnings are rather perfect complements to these type of decks, as they are quite easy to install, and aren't exactly fixed structures, meaning they could be easily "called upon" should they be needed. The retractable nature of these awnings also

benefit users, in the sense that the overall design of a deck isn't compromised, as they could be easily stored.

Indeed there are many types of decks, with deck in the architectural sense being one of the most diverse.

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Keeping the Conditions of Wooden Decks

Wooden decks are about the most common class decks which could be often encountered.

Many buildings, or houses, prefer using wooden decks, as wooden decks bring about an organic sense to the concrete/metallic nature which many structures which have been put up are gilded with today.

One problem mostly experienced by those who have wooden decks would be keeping their wooden decks in good, tip-top condition. One solution to such concerns comes in the form of retractable awnings, which serve as roofs for wooden decks, keeping it safe from the wear and tear effects of sunlight and rain. As retractable awnings are already retractable, they could be easily "called upon" should their need be needed.

Decks, in the general sense, are flat surfaces commonly referring to the "floor" areas of ships. In architecture, decks are elevated flat surfaces, which often connect sections of a home or building together. They are also architectural elements which are employed to complement a landscape design, and are also often utilized as alternatives to stone patios. Decks are also used not only as "pathways", but are also utilized as lounging areas, particularly observation decks.

Historically, decks for homes and buildings were constructed with wood such as Redwood, Atlantic White Cedar and Western Red Cedar. These classes of wood were perfect for wooden

decks, as they were quite strong and were also aesthetically pleasant to the eyes. But, due to their over logging, these days a number of materials are being used in deck construction. These materials include composite material, treated lumber, mixed plastics, aluminum and even wood fiber, or composite lumber.

With wooden decks, maintenance could stand to be a problem, especially if one wishes to keep his/her wooden decks in tip top condition.

With retractable awnings, one could easily have a roof to cover over one's wooden decks, which are quite ideal for sudden rains or intense sunlight. Retractable awnings are also quite practical, as since they are retractable, one doesn't have to setup a fixed roof structure over one's wooden decks.

When talking about retractable awnings, there are generally two types. The Automatic class of retractable awnings and the manual class of retractable awnings. The automatic variety of retractable awnings utilizes a motor for their successful operation. This simply means that users of automatic retractable awnings simply have to push a button, and it would open up, covering the areas of wooden decks. Manual retractable awnings are operated with a crank or handle, and require a degree of work for them to operate.

Either way, retractable awnings are the best solution to keeping one's wooden decks in good, tip top condition.

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Wooden Deck Furniture

Wooden Deck Furniture items are amazing furniture pieces to have, perfect for lounging in, ideal for one's relaxation time. In the most general sense, when one talks about wooden deck furniture, one is referring to deck chairs, though a variety of deck tables do exist. Wooden deck furniture of the deckchair variety are basically folding chairs which are made with wood, complemented with a vinyl or fabric backrest and seat. Some wooden deck furniture pieces come in their very simple of essences, which other classes of wooden deck furniture come with enhanced features, primarily geared for the leisure of those using them.

As the name wooden deck furniture already defines their usual locations, wooden deck furniture could be found in many areas, specifically in areas where stress shouldn't be part of the ambience. Here are three of the most common places where one could find wooden deck furniture.

Observation / Lounging Decks

Architecturally, decks are flat surfaces designed to support a degree of weight, as well as often designed to be off ground. Decks of this variety are often used as connection pathways, connecting various sections of a home or building together. They are also often constructed to complement garden landscape designs, as well as alternatives to the more stone based of patios.

Decks, are often utilized as "observation areas" or "lounging areas" by many, as these are structures geared for outdoor use. Historically, strong wood materials were utilized in most deck constructions, like Atlantic White Cedar, Western Red Cedar and Redwood. Due to the over logging of these trees, many decks are now constructed with treated lumber, or composite lumber, or teak, or mahogany, or ipe, even with aluminum, and with other decks even constructed with mixed plastics.

Wooden Deck Furniture are quite common to see in a house's or building's deck, as they are areas in the structure where owners could relax and unwind.

Swimming Pool Deck

When talking about swimming pool decks, one talks about the surrounding surface of the pool itself. Wooden deck chairs could be easily found on these decks, standing as functional furniture pieces on which swimmers could rest and relax on, or perhaps bask under the sun.

So there you have it, three of the most common venues where wooden deck furniture shine.

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The Advantages of Waterproof Decking Material

Selecting your decking material can be a little tricky since your choice would generally spell out a world of difference to its longevity and enduring beauty of this outdoor structure. Since decks are constantly exposed to direct sunlight and moisture, it is important to carefully invest in waterproof decking materials that can easily withstand the harsh elements without succumbing to rot, warps, cracks, decay, termite infestation and fading. Hence, residential owners are constantly on the lookout of better and more durable materials that would not only add a touch of beauty in their exterior design but also provide a highly functional living space.

In the past, the top favorites are the unmatched elegance of wood decking. Although there are some wood materials such as redwood, mahogany, and pressure treated wood that are known to be quite resistant to the outdoor wear and tear, it can hardly be considered a waterproof decking material. Other options also include metal and aluminum decking, which are inarguably waterproof, can be prone to corrosion and denting. However, the introduction of synthetic decking have finally provided homeowners a wonderful solution to decking materials that resolutely offers a perfect combination of both form and function. To date, there are about 60 different manufacturers of synthetic and waterproof decking materials in the United States today, most of which amazingly look like genuine wood. In fact, these days, you are definitely in

for a surprising realization that fake wood has never truly looked this good!

The great thing about synthetic waterproof decking material is that it is resistant to rot, cracking and peeling and is known to be supremely durable. Another great feature that easily wins over many residential owners is the fact that it is virtually maintenance free, requiring a fuss-free cleaning that is a perfect complement for the fast paced lifestyles of many individuals. What is more important is it can be readily installed with the use of regular power tools, which ultimately means lesser cost of installation. Unlike wood, you need not worry about getting possible material defects, since you can only expect uniform quality with the strictest standards. Now, if you are a strong environmental advocate, then it can be comforting to know that some of the waterproof decking material are made from recycled products that are nontoxic, and are made available in every imaginable color to suit your taste and fancy.

Synthetic and waterproof decking material is definitely the more practical modern solution to a longer lasting deck that will not only enhance the beauty of your home, but provide you with a comfortable haven to come home to at the end of every single day.

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The Numerous Advantages of Vinyl Deck Material

While wood is undoubtedly the popular material used in the construction of decks, many residential owners are now on the lookout for better alternatives. This is mainly because wood requires expensive maintenance and repair costs and at the same time could not withstand long in the outdoor exposure without giving in to rot, decay, cracks and mold and termite infestations. Among the great alternative is vinyl deck material that efficiently provides a non-nonsense approach to the reduction of maintenance and overall long-term cost. If you already have an existing wooden deck, then you are quite familiar with how the constant need for repair,

maintenance care and replacement can eat up your budget. But what are exactly the advantages with the use of vinyl deck material as a cost-effective alternative? One of the most important features of this product is its UV protection, which means it doesn't require any paint and its color will go all the way through all the deck material, which will make any gouges and scratches almost invisible. While vinyl deck material is known to be considerably expensive than the traditional wood, you will save a lot in the long run without the expensive cost of maintenance care. Vinyl deck materials are generally made from 100% virgin vinyl that makes it resistant to shrinking, rotting and decomposing – all of which wood materials could never take credit for.

When buying any vinyl deck material, look for a manufacture that offers non-prorated lifetime warranties to ensure you will get true value for your money. After installation, you will only need to make some minimal cleaning from time to time, which will perfectly complement your hectic schedule. For these reasons, thousands of residential owners all over United States have decided to replace their existing wooden decks with vinyl. Unlike wood that would require constant chemical treatments that can be quite hazardous to your family's health, vinyl is actually manufactured under strictly controlled factory environment and makes use of stringent safety standards that will ensure the material is non-toxic.

If you like to entertain guests from time to time, all without having to constant fear marring the beautiful surface of your deck, then its best to consider choosing vinyl to save you from worrying needlessly. So if you want to invest in something that will last for several years and still maintain its original beauty, then it's about time that you seriously consider using vinyl deck material.

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Synthetic deck material is very much used these days by most homeowners because not only does it look classy and elegant, but also it is very easy to maintain. For the past five years, manufacturers have come to realize that an appearance is very essential when choosing the right synthetic deck material. Deep wood grains that are embossed on a specific surface of a board exude a wood appearance. And because they appear to be wood, they really look very elegant and very classy.

When it comes to synthetic deck material, there are generally five separate categories and two types of plastic and wood composites. These two are the polyethylene composite and polypropylene composite.

Polypropylene Composite - This specific synthetic deck material is a mixture of plastic and wood. The materials are normally fifty percent pure and another fifty percent recycled. These are made from Polypropylene and very fine wood particles. This type of synthetic deck material is manufactured under pressure and heat to easily encapsulate the wood into the plastic. The materials then become very light in color from the first few years of use, not unless they are protected with a UV inhibitor. Most producers make the surface of this type of synthetic deck material with wood grains that are embossed into it. Additionally, this particular type retains its shape if you decide to bend it and make curved railings or benches.

Polyethylene Composite - This type of synthetic deck material has deep embossed grains that were created by a process called compression molding. The materials contain polyethylene plastic that is partially recycled and wood fiber. The decking normally carries a limited warranty of twenty-five years and are offered in four different natural colors that include Redwood, cedar, Cape Cod Grey, and Weathered Wood.

Aluminum - This is also another type of synthetic deck material that most homeowners prefer to use. Aluminum is known to have the least amount of contraction and expansion of all the

other man-made materials. They also have powder-coat paint finish and come in tan, gray, and white. Carbide saw can be used to saw aluminum and it is important that its edges are properly smoothed.

Laminated Vinyl Membrane - This type of synthetic deck material consists of polyester fabrics that are encapsulated in between two vinyl films. The finish thickness of this vinyl membrane is about 50-mm. This is the product that is perfect to make as maintenance-free decks.

If you wish to have the most elegant decks minus the maintenance and the expensive cost, consider a deck made from synthetic deck material.

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Practical Tips for your Pool Deck Designs

Having a pool deck speaks of elegance and class. If you wish to have a pool deck of your own, start your pool deck designs by determining the right materials, next to the layout and the location.

Since the material you choose for your pool deck designs is the first thing that your guests will notice, take some time in carefully scrutinizing this particular area.

Concrete- This type of material used for your pool deck designs are considered the most popular materials simply because more choices are offered at more affordable prices. Whether you prefer to have the colored decking, or the stamped concrete that strikingly resembles as stone masonries, those interlocking paving stones, or large “rocks” that make as landscaping features like natural looking waterfalls and boulders, concrete is extremely very tough to beat not only for the cost perspective but also for the design perspective.

Bricks- Another nice material to be used for your pool deck designs are bricks. Brick decks greatly make your pools very attractive and elegant, especially if you home is also made from

brick. However, bricks can tend to become hot on sunny afternoons. If you have young children or kids at home, bricks are not good ones for your pool deck designs.

Stones- Pool deck designs that are made from stones are mostly sought after by the higher-end pool making projects. Sandstones, most specifically the bluestones and the flagstones are suited for pools because its surface that is porous is not slick once it gets wet. Likewise, marble and granite are elegant options also for your pool deck designs, provided that you have enough budget to consider these types of stones. Just make sure though that you get those roughly hewn stones, especially if you prefer those higher end stones.

Ceramic Tiles- These are also great options for your pool deck designs. Like concrete, these ceramic tiles are manufactured in varied materials and come in every possible texture and color that you could imagine. These ceramic tiles make it very possible for you to create colorful and stunning murals and mosaics on your pool deck designs.

Take time to go over the Internet, visit shops, or seek for the advice of the professionals in order for you to have the best possible pool deck designs. That way, lounging lazily on your pool deck on warm weekend afternoons will always be one thing that you will look forward to. After all, nothing beats relaxing right at the comfort of your very own backyard, right?

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Retractable Deck Awnings: The Most Common of Deck Awnings

In understanding retractable deck awnings, understanding the nature of decks would greatly help one see why retractable deck awnings stand to be the most common of deck awnings in the world. Basically decks aren't just items one would find as staples in a casino, in the form of a deck of cards, or as parts of a skateboard. Those are all basically different classes of decks. The decks we are talking about here are decks in the architectural sense, meaning they are

parts of a house or building's design. A deck, again in an architectural sense, is a flat surface which is designed so support weight, and functions no different from a floor, but is typically found outdoors. The most common use of decks involves it to connect various sections of a building, connecting them from one area to another. Oftentimes decks are elevated from the ground.

The most common material used in deck construction is wood, but other materials are known to also be used in making or forming decks. There are decks which are made from composite material, treated lumber, Western Red Cedar, Aluminum, Teak, Recycled Planks and High-density polyethylene, polystyrene and PET plastic.

Historically, Redwood, Western Red Cedar and Atlantic White Cedar were used in making decks, but as the times had changed, specifically as issues with over-logging these trees started to be much more of a concern, other alternative materials for deck construction were utilized.

Decks are often paired with retractable deck awnings, as they are the ideal items to block away the sun's rays and rain on one's deck, without having to permanently setup a roof over the area.

As retractable deck awnings are retractable, users could easily expand retractable deck awnings, ensuring that rain and/or sunlight don't bother those on the decks. Retractable deck awnings could either be bought premade or could be custom made depending on their user's needs. Typically, the awning itself of retractable deck awnings are made from durable materials which are quite versatile in withstanding the various elements they are tasked to face and deal with.

Generally, there are two classes of retractable deck awnings; the automatic and the manual classes. Manual retractable deck awnings work with a handle or crank, similar to the dynamics of how an umbrella works. Automatic retractable deck awnings are often powered by a mechanical system, which is typically electric. There are a number of manufacturers of premade

or custom retractable deck awnings, as well as manual and automatic, with many of them featuring free installation services as part of their product package.

Retractable deck awnings are amazing items as they keep summer's cool, and rainy days dry on decks, without compromising the general design of one's deck.

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Motorized Retractable Awnings: Perfect for One's Deck

Decks in one's home are amazing architectural features to have. Motorized Retractable awnings are the perfect partners for decks.

In architecture, decks are basically flat surfaces, which serve the similar function of floors, but differ in the sense that they are often used outdoors. Typically, decks in a home are used as "pathways" connecting various sections from one to another, typically to and fro to the main section of a home, but are also known to be utilized to complement a landscape design's overall aesthetic look, as well as to serve as alternatives to the more stone based of patios.

Motorized retractable awnings, which are basically retractable roofs, are the perfect partners for decks, keeping elements like rain and sunlight away, providing shelter from them. Motorized retractable awnings also keep the material used in making decks course through the most minimal of wear and tear values. Also, motorized retractable awnings, given that they are retractable, also stand to be the perfect partner for one's deck as they don't actually compromise the overall design of one's deck.

Decks are historically known to be made from wood, with the decks of a house typically made to be built above the ground, again, connecting sections to the main section of a house. Redwood, Atlantic White Cedar and Western Red Cedar were often used, but as the fast logging of these trees started raising issues, a number of alternative materials are being utilized in deck

construction, or decking. These days treated lumber, composite material, teak, mahogany, recycled planks, aluminum, and high-density polystyrene, polyethylene and PET plastics, as well as wood fiber and other mixed plastics, are used in decking projects.

Generally, retractable awnings are the perfect complements for decks, as they are typically less expensive compared to patio and/or deck cover construction costs. Also, retractable awnings have the ability to be easily “stored”, only to be “taken out” when unexpected rain falls or when sunlight comes up. They keep one’s deck from withering away, protecting them from the elements.

Motorized retractable awnings stand to be one of the two classes of retractable awnings, the other being manual retractable awnings. Manual retractable awnings, as their name already says it, are retractable awnings which operate with a handle or a crank, requiring users to have to manually operate them. Motorized retractable awnings work in conjunction with a motorized system, making it quite easy and simple to use them.

Indeed, decks in one’s home are amazing architectural features to have. With motorized retractable awnings are the perfect partners for decks, easy to use, keeping things shaded and dry during summer rains, keeping one’s deck condition in tip top shape.

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Where to Find Free Deck Design Software

Every homeowner believes that having a deck at his or her own backyard is very essential. This is particularly true to those who love to spend their weekends outdoors with their friends and loved ones. That is the reason why having a deck takes a lot of careful planning.

There are a number of possible ways on where you can obtain deck design software. You can either buy it from specific websites or home furnishing shops. However, why buy these when

you can have free deck design software? When you say free deck design software, it means to say that you can legally obtain it from different websites from the Internet.

The best thing to do if you wish to have free deck design software is to go over the Internet and browse over varied companies that primarily deal with patio and deck designing. What is good about having them obtained thru the Internet is that you can specifically choose the type of free deck design software that is suitable to your taste and your preference. Most of the free deck design software is sent to clients in a span of a week or two, depending on the location.

Additionally, the software has step-by-step instructions on how to build decks of your preference.

Another practical idea to obtain free deck design software is thru home and gardening books. Some of these books give instructions and free brochures that you can send back to them, should you wish to have free deck design software. And because it is free, you need not worry much about having to pay for these software.

There are also some home furnishing shops that offer free deck design software, especially if they have a lot of new products to introduce to their clients. Aside from the software, clients can also avail of free tutorials from the in-house professional landscapers and architects, as far as deck designing is concerned.

There really are a lot of ways on how you can have free deck design software. Ask your friends also who have their own copies of this software so that you will gather more and more ideas about deck designs. You need not worry much as to what free deck design software since most of what they offer are almost similar to those deck design software sold anywhere.

Why buy design software when you can have free deck design software that can certainly help you with your deck-designing plans? Go grab yourself a copy of the software now and experience designing your own deck with just some few simple instructions. After all, every little

planning of your decks all start from you, right?

Hope you found this guide helpful for more information on Building a Deck please visit:-

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