

## START YOUR PROJECT

Use this print-out as a guide for bringing your dream deck to life. Whether you're just starting to envision your outdoor living space or you're ready to create a customized deck design that seamlessly extends your style outdoors, we're here to help.

# Plan Out a General Timeline

Of course, every project is different. The chart below shows the average time it takes for each phase of a deck build. Keep in mind that the actual build phase will typically happen during warmer months with calm weather.

## GROUNDWORK



1 - 2 MONTHS

### START THE RESEARCH PROCESS.

Browse the TimberTech site and catalog to get an idea of what the process will look like as well as start making your deck-dreams come true!

## STEP ONE



UP TO 1 MONTH

### FIND A LOCAL, QUALIFIED CONTRACTOR.

Make it easy on yourself and use our "Find a Contractor" tool or ask friends and family for deck builder recommendations. If you're handy, you can also DIY the project.

## STEP TWO



UP TO 1 MONTH

### PLAN YOUR DECK DESIGN.

At this stage, you'll determine the design of your backyard space. Keep in mind what you want it to look like as well as how you want it to function best for your needs.

## STEP THREE



1 TO 2 MONTHS

### FINALIZE YOUR PRODUCTS AND SCHEDULE YOUR BUILD!

Make your final product selections and schedule your build. Then, kick back, relax, and watch your ideal deck come to life.

## LAY THE GROUNDWORK

# Get the Facts

We get it; the thought of building a deck can be overwhelming. If you spend a little time figuring out what materials are right for you, what designs resonate with your style, and making an estimated budget, you'll have planned a seamless project. These three key topics – materials, design, and budget – allow you to understand the core elements of your decking project before jumping in head first.

### DECKING AND RAILING 101

Get the facts about the material options available to you and decide which is best for your needs.

### BOARD & DECK DESIGNS

First, understand the variety of colors and finishes available for your decking and railing. Then, get inspired by real deck designs and galleries of gorgeous, completed decks.

### BUDGET PLANNING

Get a ballpark cost for your project and explore how composite decking saves you time and money in the long run.

# Find a Contractor or DIY the Project

Deciding to add on, rebuild, or replace your deck is a big step. And, finding the right person to do the job is critical. To make building your ideal outdoor living space easier, follow the below steps to find, vet, and hire the best deck builder for the job.

## 1. ASK AROUND FOR RECOMMENDATIONS.

Finding a local deck builder who is qualified doesn't have to be a drain on your time and energy. Start the old fashion way by asking around for recommendations from family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors.

## 2. CHECK OUT THEIR SITE AND READ REVIEWS.

Getting a feeling for how a potential deck builder has treated and serviced previous customers can be telling. While it's important to keep in mind that every online review be taken with a grain of salt — most happy customers keep their gratitude contained to offline conversations.

## 3. CHAT WITH THEM OVER THE PHONE OR VIA EMAIL.

Getting a good feel for someone over the phone and via email will help reinforce your "gut instinct" about a potential deck builder.

## 4. MEET IN-PERSON TO DISCUSS THE PROJECT.

Just like getting a "gut feeling" when you chat on the phone, meeting in person can provide clarity into if this might be the right person for your deck build. While the builder may be qualified, don't choose someone whose work and communication style doesn't align with yours.

## 5. GET ESTIMATES FROM YOUR FAVORITE DECK BUILDER(S).

At this stage, you probably have one or two deck builder(s) that you think could complete the build well. Ask each builder for a detailed contract that captures the nuances of your deck project that you've previously discussed.

## 6. SIGN THE CONTRACT!

You've done the legwork and now can rest easy knowing that your deck is scheduled to be built and that you'll soon be relaxing on your new deck.

# Plan Your Deck Design

Think about your dream space – how do you want it to look and feel? What will you use it for? This guide will help you and your contractor identify the right design for your lifestyle. Simply fill in the blanks below and review your wants and needs with your contractor.

**FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:** Now's the time to determine if you want a quaint deck, a sprawling deck, or maybe a deck split up into a few unique "hangout zones" like an elevated area for a dining table or an outdoor kitchen.

*How are you mainly going to use your deck? (Check all that apply.)*

- ENTERTAINING     LOW-KEY RELAXATION     BACKYARD BASHES
- KIDS PLAYPLACE     DOG HANGOUT

*Desired square footage of your deck: \_\_\_\_\_*

**FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:** Many homeowners like matching their decking and railing to their home's trim and siding colors – or choose a contrasting color to make your railing pop!

*Which colors are currently part of your home's exterior?*

Exterior (siding/brick/stucco) color: \_\_\_\_\_ Trim color: \_\_\_\_\_ Accent color: \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:** Mull over if you want the surface of your deck and railing options to blend into the existing landscape or standout as the statement piece of your backyard. For example, if you have a gorgeous view, black railing will help it blend into the background. Conversely, mixing multiple deck colors, incorporating unique deck inlays, or incorporating striking curved perimeters will spice up your space.

*How do you want your deck to look in your back yard? (Check one.)*

- STAND OUT AS A STATEMENT     BLEND IN TO FOCUS ON THE LANDSCAPE
- SOMEWHERE IN-BETWEEN

**FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:** Existing architectural elements should be considered when determining your deck design. If you have a walk-out basement or a bi-level home, you might want to consider adding DrySpace® under your deck to make the space livable. Plus, if you're off the ground, do you need to add stairs or is your deck only accessible from the back door?

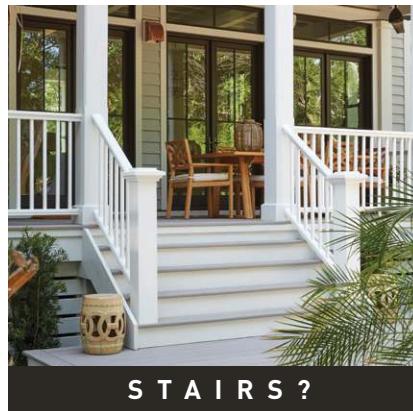
*Do you have a second-story deck, commonly found in walk-out basements and bi-level homes?  YES  NO*

*If you do have a second-story deck, do you want to include stairs as part of your deck design?  YES  NO*

*Do you want to expand your living space underneath your deck with DrySpace?  YES  NO*



B I - L E V E L ?



S T A I R S ?



D R Y S P A C E ?

**2****STEP TWO**

(continued)

**FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:** If you're creating a screened-in porch or trying to create a true outdoor room, you should consider TimberTech Porch boards that boast a tighter fit to keep bugs at bay and dirt from coming up between the cracks. Plus, porch boards look more like indoor flooring, but are more durable for an outdoor application.

*Do you have an existing screened-in porch, deck enclosure, or pergola?*  YES  NO

*Would you like to create one?*  YES  NO

**FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:** It's important that your space is as functional as it is beautiful. Always examine your deck's safety needs when planning your deck design. If you have kids or animals, think about adding a gate kit.

*Do you have kids or animals that will be hanging out on the deck?*  YES  NO

*If yes, would you like to include ADA Handrail for increased ease of getting around?*  YES  NO

*Do you want to include a wheelchair ramp for easy access to raised decks?*  YES  NO

**3****STEP THREE**

## Finalize Your Products & Schedule Your Build

Honestly, you can't go wrong when you build using TimberTech products. The chart below will help align your material needs with your style wants. After you have an idea on which is right for you, answer the questions and fill in the blanks below.

**CAPPED POLYMER**

Our most moisture-resistant and coolest boards are perfect for decks in warm climates, docks near water and around pools.

**4-SIDED CAPPED COMPOSITE**

Perfect for those that love a bold visual and sturdy feel under-foot, these classic boards deliver superior performance.

**CAPPED COMPOSITE**

A true step up from traditional lumber, this durable decking is low-maintenance without stressing your budget.



*Circle your preferred deck color:*  LIGHT GRAY  DARK GRAY  LIGHT BROWN  
 WARM BROWN  DARK BROWN

**JUMP INTO ACTION:** Whip out that TimberTech catalog – or navigate to our site. It's about to get colorful.

*Top three deck board color(s): #1 \_\_\_\_\_ #2 \_\_\_\_\_ #3 \_\_\_\_\_*

*Deck board width:*  NARROW (3.5")\*  STANDARD (5.5")  WIDE (7.25")\*

\*Narrow and Wide width only available in TimberTech® AZEK® Vintage Collection® colors.

**FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:** Don't forget about fasteners! Depending on what you select, your fasteners may add an unexpected cost to your bottom line.

*Do you want hidden fasteners or do you mind visible hardware?*



HIDDEN, PLEASE!



I LIKE EXPOSED FASTENERS

## Railing to Stand Apart from Average Decks

Every deck deserves great railing – they're just better together. Choose the material and style that make up your perfect pairing. Get started picking a railing by answering the questions and filling in the blanks below.

**FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:** Your railing is the first thing your neighbors see. Now's the time to consider if you want a statement making railing that reflects traditional mill work railings or if you want sleek, metal rails that fade into the background.

*What are your main rail desires?:*  I NEED A DRINK RAIL  I NEED A VIEW  I WANT IT TO BE HIGH DESIGN  
 I SIMPLY WANT TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE IS SAFE

*Do you want to make a style statement or prioritize your view?*  I'M GOING BOLD  I WANT IT TO BLEND IN

*Are you putting railing around the entire deck?*  YES, ALL THE WAY AROUND  NO, I'M DITCHING RAILING  
 YES, BUT NOT THE ENTIRE WAY AROUND IT



## MODERN COMPOSITES

Perfect for matching your decking and railing – and holding your drink on these flat, modern rail styles.



## TRADITIONAL COMPOSITES

Ideal for decks that want a classic railing style that is guaranteed to match most home's exterior architecture.



## MINIMALIST METAL

Preserve your sightlines and tap into sleek, minimalist railing profiles that're powder-coated for longevity.



Selecting from the categories above, what do you prefer?

MODERN COMPOSITES    TRADITIONAL COMPOSITES    MINIMALIST METALS

Keeping in mind that not every color is available in every railing style, check what you prefer the color to be:

WHITE    BLACK    KONA®    SLATE GRAY    BRONZE  
 TRADITIONAL WALNUT    SAME TOP RAIL COLOR AS MY DECKING

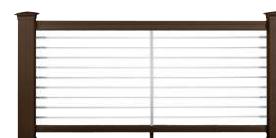
Infill type:



COMPOSITE



ALUMINUM



CABLERAIL



GLASS

If selecting composite or aluminum infills, what color do you want the infill to be? \_\_\_\_\_

## It's Time to Accessorize!

Use the section below to deck out, well, your deck. Answer the questions below to accessorize your space in a way that fits your style and budget. Let loose a little, it's time to add items that feel right for your space.

Stair Risers Lighting:  YES  NO



Railing Post Lighting:  YES  NO



Railing Cap Lighting:  YES  NO



## Don't Forget the Finishing Touches.

It's time to take the deck in your head and make it into the deck you own. Answer these last few questions about finishing touches to add the icing to the cake.

**FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:** It's easy to miss accounting for things that help the look finished, like fascia and stair risers.

Keep in mind that most decks use fascia to cover the side of stairs and risers to close the hole behind the level step.

*Do you want your fascia (AKA the boards that run around the perimeter of your deck and cover the side of your stairs) to match your decking or to be another color?*

- EVERYTHING MATCHING & HARMONIOUS     CRISP WHITE FOR ME
- DARKER OR LIGHTER COLOR, PLEASE



MATCHING



WHITE



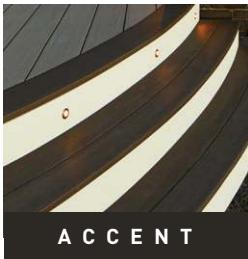
DARKER OR  
LIGHTER

*When it comes to stair risers (AKA the boards applied behind each step), do you want them to match your decking or to be another color?*

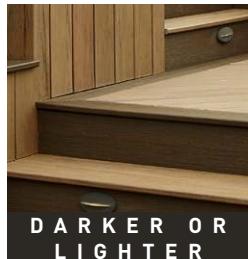
- EVERYTHING MATCHING & HARMONIOUS     CRISP WHITE FOR ME
- DARKER OR LIGHTER COLOR, PLEASE



MATCHING



ACCENT



DARKER OR  
LIGHTER

## Kick Off Your Deck Build!

You've done it – you've planned your deck. Bring this checklist to your already vetted contractor – or bring it with you on appointments while you're selecting the lucky company that's going to build your ideal deck.

Soon it'll be time to let the pro take over – before you know it you'll be relaxing on your new TimberTech deck with your friends and family!