



**W.E.DAVIES + SONS**  
REMODELING, INC.

# PLANNING YOUR DECK REMODEL: A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

*Create an outdoor haven! A beautiful, functional outdoor space inspires us to spend more time enjoying the warm weather. If you're considering a porch or deck remodel, follow this helpful guide to reduce project challenges.*

## STEP 1: DEFINE THE GOALS & STRATEGIES

*Shape your vision. How do you plan to use the outdoor space?*

### **DREAM.**

Learn what options are best for your yard, budget, and if you are going for a DIY project, your skill level. However, you can always opt to enlist the help of a professional contractor.

### **RESEARCH.**

Spend time doing a Google Image search. Look at Pinterest or read remodeling blogs for inspiration.

### **TIMEFRAME.**

Most people have their new deck built in their head and think about family cookouts and the great parties they'll host but tend to skip over the messy part of actually building it. Consider the dust, debris, and other hiccups that may need your attention along the way. And in today's world, you must also consider the very real issues of product shortages, longer than expected shipping and delivery times, and increased product costs.



## STEP 2: MAKE A LIST

*Think through your wants and needs and then make a list of everything you can think of that you want in your new outdoor space. You can ask these questions while making your list:*

## ❑ WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO WITH THE AREA?

Maybe you want to remodel your deck to be an extra entertainment area or an outdoor dining space. Whatever it is, you should know what you would like to do with the space.

## ❑ WILL THERE BE MORE SEATING OR STORAGE SPACES?

Every deck needs some sort of seating and storage space. Ask yourself if built-in seating is going to be needed. Do you need furniture to provide storage? If you want both, you can opt for benches with built-in storage underneath.

## ❑ DO YOU WANT ADDITIONAL FEATURES?

If you enjoy grilling in your backyard, an outdoor kitchen could be just what you are looking for. A fire pit will allow you to enjoy your deck even in colder weather. Be sure to put the features you want on your new deck on your list.

# STEP 3: RESEARCH LOCAL CODES

Most home improvement projects, including your deck remodeling project, will have specific requirements. These requirements ensure the work being done on your home is following state and local code. Residential decks typically require you to obtain a building permit.

## THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW.

- Every municipality has its own set of rules for obtaining a permit. You may be asked to submit a blueprint to your local building codes department for approval, and then go through an inspection process.
- Permits ensure the health and safety of future occupants and the quality of the project.

### PRO TIP

It is easier to get a building permit for a low, freestanding deck.



# STEP 4: PLAN YOUR SPACE

*The design and placement of your deck are significant factors that affect your home. The result may provide either a beautiful addition or an unsightly feature to your property. Knowing this, it is important to assess the location of your new deck.*

## PREP YOUR YARD.

Consider how you will prepare the location. Is the area where you intend to construct the deck relatively level? If the answer is no, some work will need to be done. Clear as much of the deck site as you can. The cleaner the future deck area is, the less maintenance you will have to do after it is built.

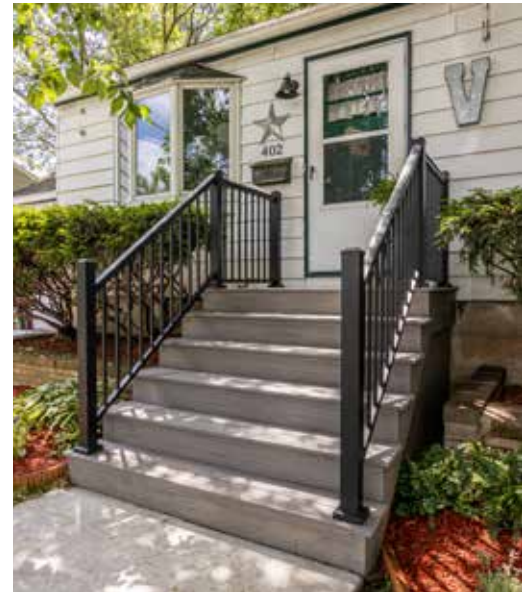
## ACCESSIBILITY AND USABILITY.

Many homeowners prefer to build a deck off of their kitchen or living room for ease of access. An accessible deck is one that is usable for anyone, regardless of mobility.

Other than an entrance from the house, what entry and exit points would be convenient? Stairs to the backyard? Would a second staircase make the deck more accessible to the garage? Consider use and plan accordingly.

## STEP 5: CREATE A BUDGET

*Knowing how much money you have to spend on renovations will help you make better decisions about finishes, appliances, and other features.*



## CONSULT WITH PEOPLE WHO HAVE PRIOR EXPERIENCE.

Talk to someone who has done a deck remodeling project before. Aside from learning how to complete a renovation successfully, you may also learn how to cut costs and budget appropriately for specific projects.

## COST OF REQUIRED PRE-WORK.

Pre-work refers to any work that must be completed prior to the construction of your deck to ensure a successful project. These factors can impact the cost of your build and the time it takes to complete.

### *Examples of Pre-Work*

- Demolition of an existing substructure.
- Work on the landscaping to clear or level the area where your deck will be built.
- Taking care of any job site access issues.
- Identifying and marking any underground utilities.

## DETERMINE EXTENT OF PROJECT

### **SIMPLE REFINISH.**

For some homeowners, their decks just need some additional features or a simple refinish. A new finish has the ability to give your existing deck a whole new look and feel if done correctly. A simple refinish is significantly more affordable than a full-scale remodeling project.

### **FULL REMODEL.**

This entails removing the old decking and then replacing it with new materials. You have nearly limitless options on what you are able to add, remove, or change. That is why you should expect to pay more for a full-scale remodeling project.

### **PRO TIP**

Most renovations end up costing more than expected, so budget for unexpected costs ahead of time. This is especially true if you plan to change layout or roof pitch or extend walls as these projects can bring additional financial surprises.



## STEP 6: SELECT MATERIALS

*A deck that compliments your home's architecture can increase its value, so you should make sure you are using suitable materials. You will have a wide range of choices, but commonly used ones include vinyl, composite, and wood decking materials.*

### VINYL DECKING.

Many homeowners choose vinyl decking because of its resistance to various damages, such as mildew and molds. Vinyl decks come in a wide range of sizes, lengths, and colors and will allow you to customize and build your deck to any style you desire.

### COMPOSITE DECKING.

Composite decking is a popular deck material among homeowners because it is well-known for its longevity, superior durability, and being environmentally friendly.

### WOOD DECKING.

Many people prefer to build wood decks because it looks so natural and appealing. Wood decking is also well-known for its strength, durability, and ease of maintenance.

## STEP 7: START BUILDING!

*With the fundamentals of deck planning covered, you're ready for a building plan. If you'd like help tackling your deck remodel, give us a call! We've been helping homeowners create their outdoor dream space for decades.*

*Still have questions?  
Give us a call!*

Call 608-222-6609



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