

HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR DECKING

Determining the type of decking material you'll be using ahead of time is an important stage in building your deck. It will allow you to work from a clear vision of what you want. Knowing how to choose the best type of decking for your project will keep you focused from beginning to end.

Here is everything you need to help you choose a deck that's going to be right for you:

- 1.** The structure of most deck projects is usually traditional green pressure treated lumber as cost/value is excellent and because regardless of the choice for deck boards, railing and skirting the structure of your deck is NOT typically seen (the exception would be multi-level decks or 2nd story walkout decks etc...) For the finished surfaces of your deck (Deck boards, railings and skirting) choose between such possibilities as composite decking, pressure treated lumber, brown pressure treated lumber, cedar, or exotic woods. Weigh the pros and cons of each against your expected use and the amount of maintenance you would or would not like to do. Costs between Pressure treated lumber and exotic wood can vary significantly so it's important to know going in which option will be best for your home.
- 2.** A good deal of the costs can involve the labour side of things. The more complex the deck is going to be, the more the labour is going to cost. Typically you can count on an equal or slightly greater amount of money for labour to install/construct your deck if you're going to have someone do it for you. \$3,000 in material would require between \$3,000 and \$4,000 in labour depending on the complexity of your project.
- 3.** Figure out the maintenance needs and what you're prepared to do as far as annual maintenance goes.. There's a reason why composite decking is more expensive than some of the other decking types out there. You're spending more now, but that means spending a lot less on upkeep later on AND you'll get extended lifespan vs other options.
- 4.** Figure out the aesthetic appeal factor. Is form just as important as function? Do you want a deck that's going to take people's breaths away? Then you'll want to consider decking materials that give you flexibility in the design possibilities. Consider combining different materials (especially effective when using composite materials) for a dramatic contrast.

5. Figure out the return on investment. Are you planning to move in the future? Or is this your dream house that you plan to be in for the foreseeable future.

6. Finally, PLAN, PLAN, PLAN. “When you fail to plan, you plan to fail” Ev

Even relatively small projects can cost a significant amount of money and considerable amount of your time. Proper planning helps you to visualize the project, ensure that all of your needs are met and surprises along the way are all but eliminated. It’s a good idea to gather ideas and photos of elements that you like and then prioritize them to try and include as many as possible in the final project. Planning also gives you a very accurate idea of the total cost of the project so that you can budget accordingly.