

# DIY CHECKLIST TO BUILD A DECK

Make sure you have the right tools for a DIY decking project. The right tools will ensure a well executed, safe, and beautiful extension to your home:

- A carpenter's level
- A chalk line
- A circular saw with a carbide tooth blade (20-24 tooth)
- A crescent wrench/ratchet wrench/socket wrench for lag bolts/nuts on carriage bolts
- Drills with corresponding bits ( longer spade bits for post to beam connections may be necessary
- Dust mask
- A good quality heavy extension cord (proper ext. cord extends the life of your tools)
- A framing square
- Gloves
- Hoe and hose
- A pencil or two
- A post hole digger if setting the posts by hand ( note: even when building a deck project yourself, having a 3<sup>rd</sup> party company dig holes and set posts for you is a great idea. Cost is reasonable and value for money vs. digging and setting by hand is excellent )
  - A rafter square
  - Safety goggles
  - A shim or spacer
  - A shovel
  - A socket wrench
  - Stakes and batter boards
  - String
  - Tamper
  - Tape measure
  - Tool belt
  - 2-foot level
  - Wheelbarrow

The right tools are naturally crucial for a DIY decking and railing project. You may also need permits, a clear understanding of any rules or regulations established through your Home Owner's Association, and information on whether or not there are any underground wires to be aware of ( **CALL BEFORE YOU DIG**.....local utilities can perform a locate on all underground services ). All of these items are easy to come by, and any additional requirements are fairly straightforward.

## **Applying Finish**

### Materials

Drop cloth  
Deck stain  
Roller covers

### Tools

Hand-pumped sprayer  
Stain brush  
Paint roller  
Power sprayer  
Roller extension pole

## **BUILDING A PRIVACY FENCE**

### Materials

Wood type (cedar or pressure treated)  
Exterior grade wood screws  
stain

### Tools

Table saw  
Tape measure  
Pencil  
Mitre saw  
Line level  
String line

Screw gun  
Safety glasses  
Stain brush  
Handsaw

## **REPAIRING A DECK**

### Materials

Wood type (cedar or pressure treated)  
Exterior grade wood screws  
stain

### Tools

Table saw  
Tape measure  
Pencil  
Mitre saw  
Line level  
String line  
Screw gun  
Safety glasses  
Stain brush  
Handsaw

## **INSTALLING A SOLID BOARD FENCE**

### Materials

1x6 Fence Boards  
Galvanized nails  
1x2s  
2x2s  
2x4s  
Deck screws

### Tools

Clamps  
Mitre saw  
Drill  
Tape measure  
Mason's line  
Line level  
Level  
Circular saw  
Jig saw  
Hammer  
Safety glasses

## **INSTALLING RAILING**

### Materials

Lumber  
Deck screws  
Handrail support brackets

### Tools

Tape measure  
Level  
Clamp  
Chisel  
Hammer  
Mitre saw  
Drill  
Circular saw

## **CLEANING A DECK**

### Materials

Deck brightener

### Tools

Deck brightener  
Paint scraper  
Stiff bristle brush  
Pressure washer  
Bucket

## **INSTALLING A FENCE POST**

### Materials

Duplex nails  
Bagged concrete

### Tools

Mason's trowel  
Power auger  
Chalk line  
Post level  
Drill and bits  
Stepladder

## **DIGGING A FOOTING**

### Materials

Concrete tube form  
Compactable gravel

### Tools

Tamper  
Handsaw  
Power auger  
Posthole digger  
Maul

## **SETTING AND CUTTING POSTS**

### Materials

Masking tape  
Preservative  
Lumber  
Deck screws  
Galvanized nails  
Post anchors

### Tools

Reciprocating saw  
Post level  
Hammer  
Drill  
Layout square  
Pencil

## **LAYING OUT FENCES AND GATES**

### Materials

Masking tape  
Landscape spike  
Galvanized nails  
2x2s  
2x4s

### Tools

Circular saw  
Line level  
Plumb bob  
Powdered chalk  
Tape measure  
Mason's line  
Hammer  
3-Pound sledgehammer

