

Planning Considerations

Various factors go into planning a deck. Consider your space, lifestyle and budget when planning out your project scope. Here are key questions to ask yourself.

Space	Your household size and backyard lifestyle will determine the square footage needed for dining/conversation areas, plus other interests like a hot tub or BBQ zone.
Height & Access	<p>A fully-raised deck can provide better views, direct access to your main floor and kitchen, and can compensate for uneven ground, but requires space for stairs and a landing.</p> <p>A ground-level deck or patio has no weight restrictions (so you can easily add a hot tub or install an outdoor fireplace), with added privacy from trees and fencing.</p>
DIY vs. Professional Installation	<p>If you're a capable DIYer with tools, you can install a deck over a few weekends to save on installation costs.</p> <p>An experienced installer, on the other hand, can provide a pro job in half the time or less.</p> <p>Talk to a Home Hardware professional to discuss your options.</p>
Municipal Permit	<p>A deck will require a building permit if it's 24 inches above grade or attached to your house.</p> <p>Contact your local building department for bylaw and permitting requirements. Do this early to avoid running up your costs and timelines.</p>