

Deck Build Planning Checklist

Use this checklist to plan framing, footings, and decking layout before ordering materials.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Deck Dimensions:	_____

Deck Height:	_____

Surface Material:	_____

Estimated Lumber Qty:	_____

Waste Allowance:	_____

Planned Date:	_____

PHASE 1 — PLANNING

- Confirm deck size and attachment method.
- Determine joist spacing and beam layout.
- Plan stair and railing configuration.
- Review load and span considerations.

PHASE 2 — SITE PREPARATION

- Mark post and footing locations.
- Verify footing depth requirements.
- Confirm ledger flashing (if attached).

PHASE 3 — MATERIAL ORDERING

- Calculate framing lumber quantities.
- Include hardware and connectors.
- Add 5–10% waste allowance.

PHASE 4 — QUALITY & RISK CONTROL

- Confirm post alignment and level.
- Verify joist spacing consistency.
- Check fastener and connector installation.

COMMON PLANNING MISTAKES

- Incorrect joist spacing.
- Underestimating hardware needs.
- Skipping flashing details.
- Improper footing depth.

PROJECT NOTES

