

# How Much Does it Cost to Build a Deck.... Deck Cost Per Sq Ft

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Most contractors price their decks per square foot.

*"The 3 biggest things that decide the cost of your deck are the size of your deck, the material you choose, and the options you add to it." - John (owner)*

The important thing to realize is that no 2 decks are going to be alike so it is difficult to compare prices or to simply apply a square footage price. You may wish to have a more complicated railing design or a change in deck boards or direction of deck boards. And then...it is important to consider any special design features, such as deck joists, stairs and posts.

You also have to consider the contractor. One contractor comes in and blows the job out, another contractor might take longer but each project to him is a piece in the story of his life so he will put his all into the project. You'll probably not pay the same for either contractor!

Some of the prices below reflect average conditions and can be used to give you an idea for the cost of your project. Plans, design and permits are always the first step in getting your project started.

Our **average deck is around 400 square feet or 20' wide by 20' long**. Most houses are better suited for a more rectangular shaped deck, say like a 14' by 28'. Knowing that decks are usually priced per square foot can help you better speak the language of deck builders.

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One factor that can make a significant difference in the cost of your deck is the amount of steps it takes to reach the ground. Steps are very labor intensive to build and install so they tend to be rather expensive. So a **Pressure Treated** deck about 3'-4' above the ground should cost somewhere between **\$27-\$32 per square foot including railing & steps**. However a small deck like a 10'X12' or 12'X14' that is 8'-9' above the ground may cost as much as **\$45-\$50 per square** foot because it needs a longer flight of steps.

Additional features such as diagonal flooring, flower boxes, deck planters, benches, pergolas, etc will increase the price, as well as removal of your old deck. Check out [How Much Does a Deck Cost](#) for pricing info on our optional features.





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**On average synthetic decks run about 40% more than pressure treated decks** (\$38-\$45 per square foot). But again keep in mind that for smaller decks with long flights of steps, the cost per square foot will be higher. A 10'X12' deck 8' above the ground, with synthetic floor and railings could cost as much as \$65-\$70 per square foot with the steps included.

As you make your decision, this may seem like a lot, but compare that to the cost of years of maintenance for a pressure treated wood deck.



# How Much Does a Deck Cost?

For a full description of the difference in materials, make sure to read the section called [Which Deck Material Should You Choose](#). Of course the type of railings you choose will also make a difference in the price of your deck. We have a lot more info and prices on our [Which Deck Railing Should You Choose?](#) page.

Make sure when considering any deck builder that the price or the quote includes everything and that it's guaranteed not to jump by \$1,000 by the time the final bill comes in, assuming there have been no additions or big changes to the design.





# How Much Does a Deck Cost?

## How Much Does it Cost to Build a Deck?

### Build a Deck Costs

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#### AVERAGE REPORTED COSTS

**\$6,921**

based on 7,855 cost profiles

LOW COST

**\$2,000**

MOST HOMEOWNERS  
SPENT BETWEEN

**\$4,087 - \$9,893**

HIGH COST

**\$15,000**

Cost data is based on actual project costs as reported by HomeAdvisor members.

[How do we get this data?](#)

Find out how you can get this project done for only **\$168.86 per month** (est.\*). [Learn more >](#)

Project	Average	Most Spent Between
Less than 200 sq.ft.	\$4,836	\$2,888 - \$6,870
Between 200 - 500 sq.ft.	\$8,142	\$5,169 - \$11,139
More than 500 sq.ft.	\$14,504	\$8,532 - \$20,605

# How Much Does a Deck Cost?

A deck provides room for outdoor entertaining or relaxing, and can create the feeling of more living space in a house. They're typically made of wood---pressure-treated wood, cedar, redwood or hardwood .....or plastic composite materials designed to look like wood!

- Hiring someone to construct a **wood deck** can cost **\$8-\$75** or more a square foot for labor and materials, depending on whether it is built with **pressure-treated wood** (**\$8-\$50** or more a square foot, or about **\$2,560-\$16,000** for 16'x20'), **cedar** ( **\$20-\$75** or more a square foot, or **\$6,400-\$24,000** for 16'x20'), **redwood** (**\$30-\$75** or more a square foot, or **\$9,600-\$24,000** for 16'x20') or **hardwood** or ( **\$40-\$80** or more a square foot, or **\$12,800-\$25,600** for 16'x20'). Wood is the most traditional, common and easily available material for decks; it is typically easier to work with than composite materials.
- **Composite deck** installation can cost **\$25-\$70** or more a square foot (8,000 - **\$22,400** for 16'x20"). Typically made of recycled plastic (about 30%-50%) and wood fibers, composite decking is advertised as a low-maintenance, long-lasting (30 years or more), splinter-free material that resists rot, insects and UV rays, but the dust from installation is not biodegradable and must be collected during installation and removed from the site. Most composites come with a 10-25 year warranty.

## Additional costs:

- Building a deck often requires a permit, depending on local regulations and the size and height of the structure. Most contractors will coordinate any permits and inspections, but the homeowner is usually responsible for paying the fees, which can be nominal or pricey, based on location.
- Depending on local regulations, after the project is complete the local tax assessor may calculate how much the property has increased in value; the exact amount of any tax increase varies significantly by location and the value of the addition.