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Decking – The Low Maintenance Alternative

By Lorenzo Lepe

If you are looking for a cost-effective, low-maintenance way to revamp your garden, installing decking could be the answer. No longer simply for DIY enthusiasts or professional gardeners, this instant and practical way of beautifying a garden, backyard or commercial business is more popular than ever.

Decking can be used as a stylish alternative to the tiresome chores that come with keeping a lawn immaculate. The wooden timber gives your yard a more natural feel than other grass replacements such as concrete or gravel, and looks in harmony with plant pots and flower beds.

Additionally, if you want a part of your yard for sitting out on, but do not fancy a patio, timber provides a perfect surface for furniture or barbecues. Also, more and more bars and cafes are now using an area of outside decking to attract sun-loving customers in the summer.

Timber is one of the easiest building components to work with, meaning that you can make your design almost any shape or size you want. You can also choose between a single or a double level deck. However, whatever you do needs careful consideration - you should not start building without a top-quality design plan to work from.

Landscapers are often very experienced at building decks, and it can be cheaper and easier to hire somebody than to be left with a disaster area if you make a mistake. Whether you are employing someone or going it alone, you will need to consider some of these factors:

What terrain are you working with? Is the ground sloping or flat, or plagued with pot-holes? The beauty of decking is that even if your yard is uneven, levels can be built into the deck which disguise this and add interest. Do you want flower beds built in?

Who will the deck be used by? Is it part of your home, or a commercial business with factors like access to think about? Will it be exposed to heavy weights, such as a hot tub or a crowd of people?

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If you want the deck as a play area for your kids, you can include extra features such as spaces for sand pits or a climbing frame. Think about the light in the location - adults might enjoy it in the sun, but children need more shade.

Once you have decided on these major factors, either on your own or with a landscaper, you can draw up plans that complement your house and yard.

A timber deck built with good quality materials should last up to twenty years. In order to keep yours strong, and looking good, you need to use freshly-treated wood that helps prevent rotting and damp.

You can also use a coating to brighten and strengthen the timber, but you should be sure this is suitable. Do not use an outdoor coating that is intended for vertical surfaces like windows and doors, as these can peel and chip when applied on a flat deck.

If you really get into decking, there are magazines that you can subscribe to to share your hobby with

other deck-enthusiasts around the world!

Find help at

<http://www.decking-supply.info>

Loreno Lepe has a background in the chemical and construction industries. Find out more about decking at

<http://www.decking-supply.info>

,

<http://www.decking-services.info>

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New Deck Railings Ideas

By Adam Peters

Ideas For Deck Railing - Only Limitation Is imagination The article gives imaginative solutions for decking in your house and surroundings. The only limitation in the design is the imagination and the spending power of the owner. Your decking is a place for your social functions, BBQ parties, a place where you can enjoy nature, and an open space for you where you can be romantic. Depending on the space you have for decking, you can have flowing lines without any acute angles. The general ideas

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that you will have to remember in such cases are,

Ensure that the space is as open as possible, and without the gaps. A large continuous space is more inviting than two separate spaces even though they total the same area in square feet.

The deck should have a number of access points nearly every 20 to 25 feet. An open space with access at limited spaces feels like a congested place even if the area is large.

The deck railing of modern houses have to be flowing and without sharp corners and acute angles. An acute angle is acts like a break in the flowing lines. Decking railing meeting at an acute angle is just not acceptable unless space requirement demands it. Modern Materials Of Construction For Deck Railing Any material that has shine and luster, and requires minimum maintenance (like painting or polishing) is the material for modern decking. That leaves the wood in its raw form as the modern material for deck railing. The wood being prone to deterioration to forces of nature is not an ideal material for decking railing. Wood also is not a material that takes flowing form without requiring large human input. Stainless steel, Powder coated steel, anodizes aluminum, or steel coated with PVC fill this requirement perfectly. Depending the money at the disposal of owner, the choices can be exercised. Care For Handicapped - Install Special Railings While installing the deck railing, it is always necessary to care for the handicapped, irrespective of the extent of the handicap. This would mean that the approaches to all the platforms shall be gradual and the side deck railings should be such that the persons with special needs can come to the deck and exit the deck without help from others and they can do it safely. That means that the deck railing in the area of approach and exit should be designed for persons with special needs.

Adam Peters adds articles regularly to

<http://www.deck-porch-railings.com>

. An online DIY magazine

that carries reviews on decks and porches. Adam publishes designs and ideas for successful deck railing plans. You can reach further articles on these ideas at

<http://www.deck-porch-railings.com/deck-railing-ideas.html>



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