



# Decks and Patios For Dummies

By Robert Beckstrom, The Editors of the National Gardening Association

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**Decks and Patios For Dummies** By Robert Beckstrom, The Editors of the National Gardening Association

Life is just so much sweeter when experienced from a good deck or patio. Breezes, sunlight, the smells of the garden, birdsongs...just a few minutes in your own backyard can enliven the senses and rejuvenate the spirit. Meals become relaxed affairs. Food tastes better. Conversations are richer. Time eases its hectic demands and drifts by at a more congenial pace. Whether for a neighborhood barbeque or just a quiet afternoon with a paperback, decks and patios offer us the perfect space to kick back and let the good times roll.

*Decks and Patios for Dummies* contains everything you need to know to design and build your dream deck or patio. Full of practical tips and clear, simple instructions, it shows the do-it-yourselfer how to solve problems in design and construction while avoiding pitfalls and unnecessary expenses. You'll find useful information on:

- Choosing the location
- Sizing
- Choosing materials
- Preparing the site
- Building
- Adding barbeques, fireplaces, etc.
- Maintenance

This is a start-to-finish guide on all aspects of deck and patio construction – including when you should seek help from the professionals! Designed to make the most of your budget, it walks you through:

- Dealing with contractors, codes, and feasibility
- The building checklist
- Lighting, outlets, faucets, and other add-ons
- Decks – from frames to finishes
- Patios: concrete, flagstone, or brick?
- Steps, stairs, and benches
- Special details and decorations

Whether your project is a patio just big enough for two chaises-lounges or a

screened-in, wraparound deck on the side of a mountain, *Decks and Patios for Dummies* makes building understandable and fun with illustrations, diagrams, helpful sidebars, and a color insert of photos to stir the imagination. Take advantage of this comprehensive guide and build your dream deck today.

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

Beckstrom, a nationally known home-remodeling and improvement expert, has put together an A-to-Z book about pretty near everything one needs to know about planning and building decks and patios: the choices of materials, tools, finishes, and accessories like planters, decorative railings, and benches.

Covering all construction techniques literally from the ground up--from foundations, supports, and basic structural guidelines all the way to final finishes and maintenance--this book offers information on everything the do-it-yourselfer could want to know. Throughout, the book is highlighted with special tips and shortcuts, cost-saving tips and tricks, warnings about pitfalls and common mistakes, and a special emphasis on "learning the lingo": explaining the terminology of tools, hardware, and materials, as well as common building words and expressions. At 356 pages and with hundreds of useful illustrations, color photographs, and a detailed index for easy reference, this is the book you need if you are fantasizing about or planning a deck or patio for your home. --*Mark A. Hetts*

#### From the Back Cover

"The guidebook to turning your yard into your favorite getaway destination." — Bill Crosby, Editorial Director, ImproveNet "An outstanding reference for beginners and first-time homeowners." — Boston Globe "A concise, well-put-together summary of everything do-it-yourselfers need to know to build their dream decks." — Pamela Allsebrook, California Redwood Association

#### 8 Pages of Colorful Photos to Motivate the Do-It-Yourselfer!

Build a Great Deck or Patio Without Breaking Your Back — or the Bank! Planning a backyard bash but have nowhere to put the barbecue? Let this fun-filled, practical guide help you design, build, and maintain the outdoor space of your dreams. Written with the do-it-yourself builder in mind, *Decks & Patios For Dummies®* brings you everything you need to know to do a top-notch job — including tips on when to get help! Before you know it, you'll be flipping burgers out back. Time to Hit the Deck!

- Plan the functional and fun outdoor haven that works best for your space
- Find out about basic rules of design so you can create your own layout
- Choose your surface — wood, concrete, brick, flagstone, or tiles
- Treat your deck with the right sealant for the surface you've selected
- Build a solid patio foundation that won't flood with the first rain
- Don't forget the amenities — barbecues, benches, overheads, planters, and more

#### About the Author

About the Authors Robert Beckstrom, a licensed building contractor, has written and edited dozens of home improvement books and appeared on numerous talk shows as a home improvement expert. The National Gardening Association is recognized for its bimonthly National Gardening magazine and prolific work in science education for children. The association is also the coauthor of *Lawn Care For Dummies®*, *Gardening For Dummies®*, and other gardening titles in the ...For Dummies® series.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Nathan Herr:**

Book is actually written, printed, or created for everything. You can recognize everything you want by a book. Book has a different type. As it is known to us that book is important matter to bring us around the world. Close to that you can your reading skill was fluently. A reserve Decks and Patios For Dummies will make you to possibly be smarter. You can feel considerably more confidence if you can know about almost everything. But some of you think that will open or reading a book make you bored. It is not make you fun. Why they may be thought like that? Have you seeking best book or appropriate book with you?

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#### **Ann Yoho:**

Reading a book for being new life style in this season; every people loves to go through a book. When you examine a book you can get a great deal of benefit. When you read books, you can improve your knowledge, mainly because book has a lot of information on it. The information that you will get depend on what forms of book that you have read. If you want to get information about your research, you can read education books, but if you act like you want to entertain yourself read a fiction books, these us novel, comics, and soon. The Decks and Patios For Dummies provide you with a new experience in looking at a book.

#### **Joan Stump:**

In this period globalization it is important to someone to acquire information. The information will make professionals understand the condition of the world. The healthiness of the world makes the information better to share. You can find a lot of recommendations to get information example: internet, magazine, book, and soon. You can view that now, a lot of publisher that will print many kinds of book. Typically the book that recommended to you is Decks and Patios For Dummies this guide consist a lot of the information in the condition of this world now. This kind of book was represented how do the world has grown up. The language styles that writer require to explain it is easy to understand. The particular writer made some investigation when he makes this book. This is why this book suited all of you.

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