

A backyard deck is the ideal way to provide a place for you and your family to relax as well as an outdoor entertainment space for people to gather. A well designed deck is a worthy investment that will add value to your property and with the right materials and maintenance, will last for decades. Customize your dream deck to suit your needs and style with built-ins, multi-levels, railings, shade structures and unique lighting. Planning your deck to be built in phases over several seasons can help with the budget. When you're ready to begin your deck project, come to TIMBER MART and get started at the right place. Our friendly experts are ready to help you plan your deck project from start to finish. Bring in a sketch with as much information as possible including a rough layout and measurements. We can turn your vision into an accurate design plan with a complete materials list and cost estimate. We have everything you need to build the ultimate deck, including high-quality building materials and the right tools to get the job done. Contact your local TIMBER MART for more decking inspiration and advice.





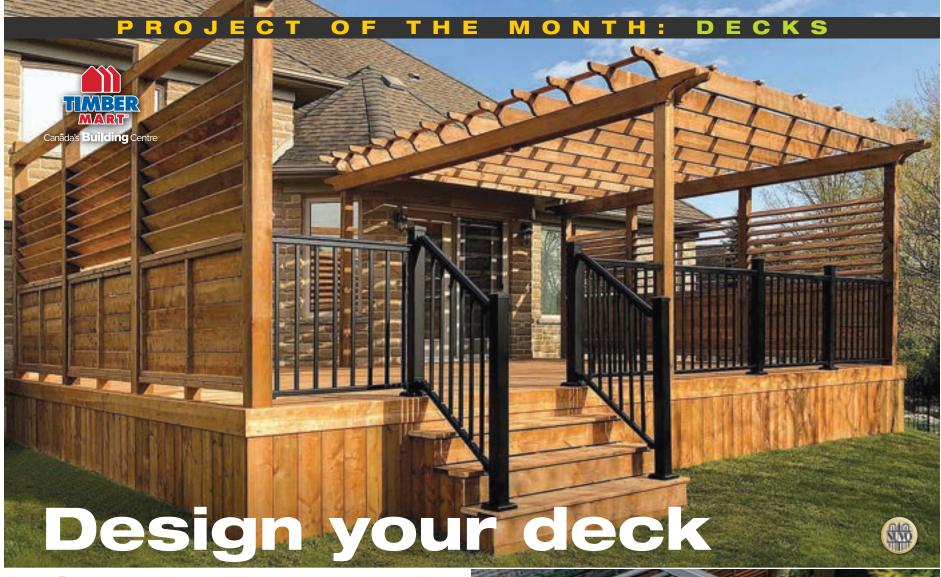


Trex Signature® decking is a new line of high-end decking from the outdoor living innovators at Trex. It has a sleek, modern look and can be installed in a variety of configurations. Trex Signature® decking is made from a combination of high-performance materials that makes it incredibly durable and resistant to scratches, stains, fading, moisture damage, insects, and UV rays. Like all Trex decking, Trex Signature® is extremely low maintenance, requiring only occasional cleaning to keep it looking its best. It doesn't need to be stained or sealed and it won't splinter, crack, or warp over time. Trex Signature® decking is currently available in two colour choices: Whidbey & Ocracoke.

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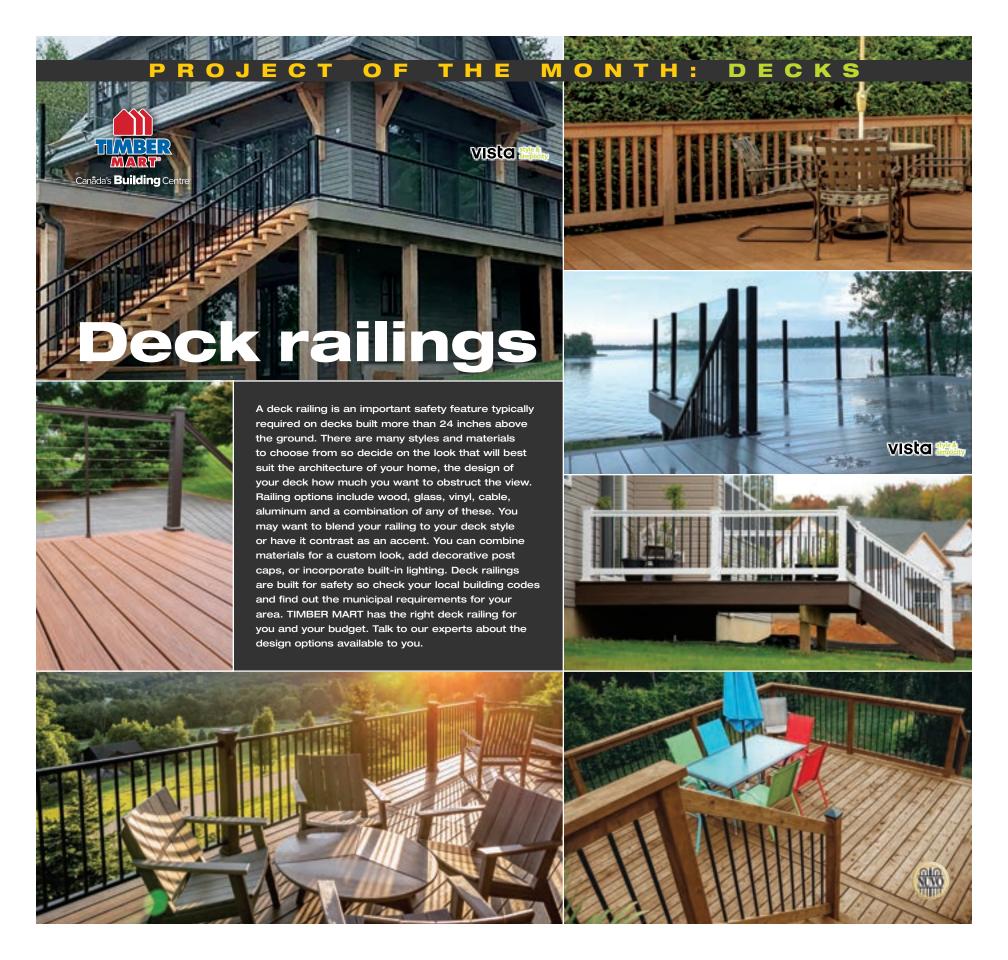
DECKING

AND RAILING



Don't let direct sun on a hot day or unwelcome attention from neighbours keep you from enjoying your backyard deck. When planning the design and function of your deck, consider including solutions for privacy and shade. Often, these two work hand-in-hand. A raised deck often increases exposure to surrounding neighbours so it's important to create a more intimate setting by adding privacy to your design. Nuvo Iron's adjustable louvers, pictured above, open and close allowing you to choose when you want extra shade or more privacy. If your neighbours overlook your yard, consider a pergola for privacy, which also doubles as sun protection. A pergola or shade structure adds distinct charm to a deck and helps define the outdoor living space. By including privacy and shade in your overall deck design, you will be able to truly relax in your backyard and entertain your guests in comfort and peace. If you have questions about how to include privacy and shade in your deck design, visit your local TIMBER MART and talk to one of our Deck Experts.





Canada's **Building** Centre Deck storage Spending time in the backyard relaxing and gathering with friends and family is the dream of most homeowners. To keep your outdoor space

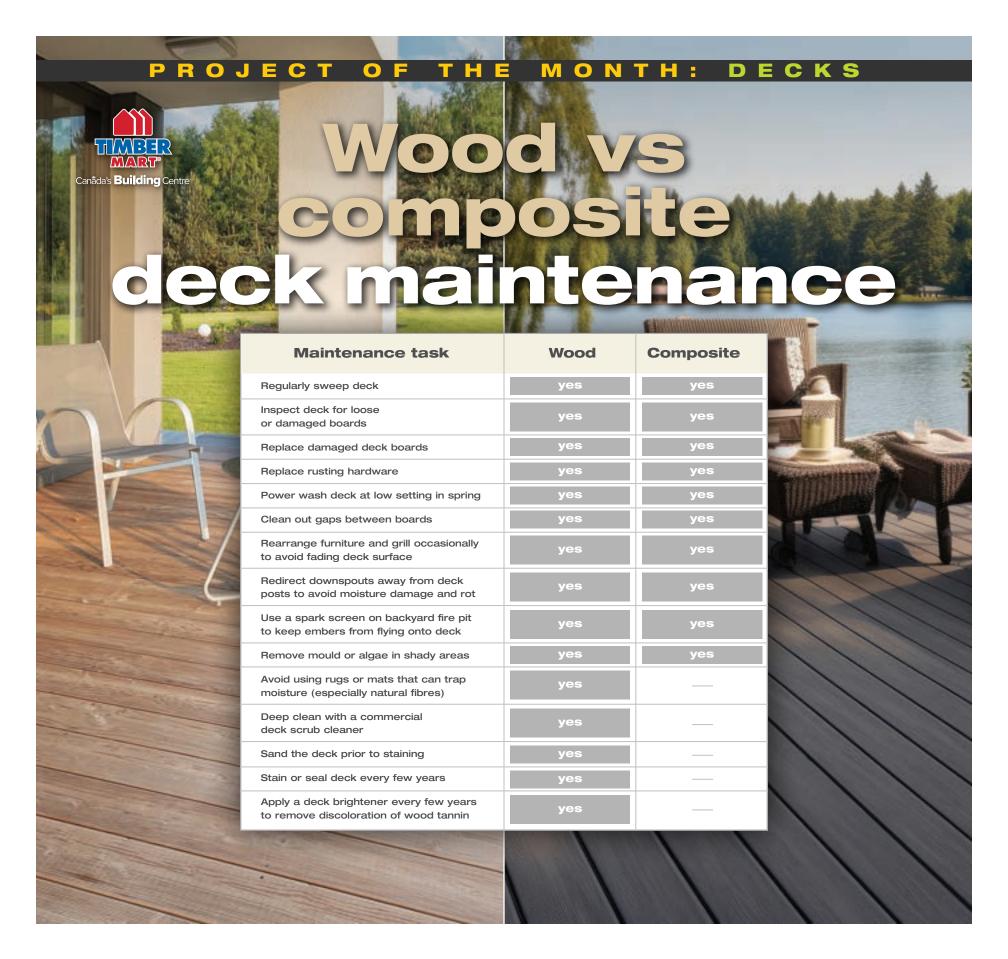
neat and guest-ready, you're going to need a place to store cushions, toys, towels, blankets, extra plates, napkins and everyday clutter. Quick access to storage allows the benefit of having these items close at hand, while keeping the deck area neat and tidy. Waterproof deck boxes are a great way to protect outdoor cushions from the weather. They are available in assorted shapes and sizes, including the size of a small shed with built-in shelving for ample storage. Other deck box features include lids that double as bench seating and integrated wheels for portability. Another great storage solution are DIY wood benches with hinged seats that lift to allow storage in the cavity below. Wood storage benches can be built into the structure of the deck or function as freestanding. For ultimate comfort, add a seat cushion covered in outdoor fabric. Patio furniture can also be a source of hidden storage. Look for multi-purpose furniture with integrated pull-out tables and built-in storage in the seats. Another spot for storing large items, like extra chairs or large garden tools, is the space under the deck. It's best to put down a floor of treated plywood or patio stones to protect your items from the wet ground. You can also install ceiling racks typically found in the garage to the underside of the deck to keep everything off the ground.















How to clean your wood deck for brilliant staining results



How do
I know if
my deck
needs to be
stained?



What colour should I stain my deck?



How do I stain my wooden porch or deck?



How to stain your wood deck in 4 easy steps



How to stain your deck video







- Parallel or perpendicular When planning your deck, decide if you want the deck boards to lay parallel or perpendicular to your house. Whichever way you decide will determine which way your joists run. Parallel boards will have perpendicular joists, and vice-versa.
- Check your grading Even if the ground where you will be building looks flat, check the grading so you know ahead of time if allowances need to be made in your deck design.
- Slope it Remember to slope your deck away from your house and other structures in order to drain water in the right direction. Design a slope of 1/8 to 1/4 inch for every foot of decking. Build your slope into the structure under your deck and the top decking will simply follow the same angle.
- Ledger board Before you fasten a ledger board to a structure, attach the joist hangers to the ledger board first. Be sure to double check your measurements so they are set at the correct height.
- Deck board spacers Every wood deck needs space between the boards to allow for air circulation. The easiest thing to use as a spacer is a nail. Hammer the nail into a plastic jar lid to keep it from falling through the cracks between the boards. The lid will make your spacer easy to see and easy to move.

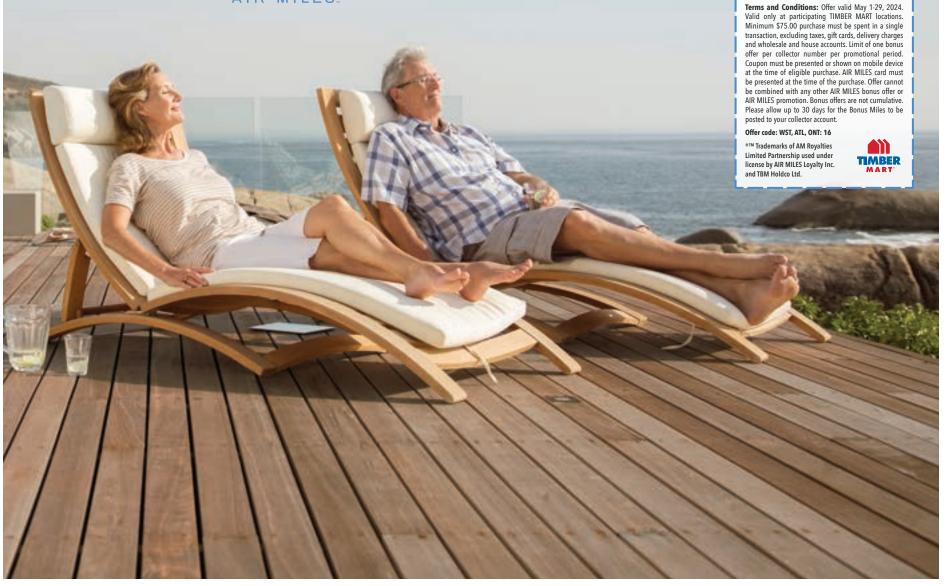
- Cut deck boards straight Don't cut your deck boards to the exact length. Cut them a little longer so the ends hang over the outside edge of your deck. Then cut all the ends at once with a circular saw. Attach a straight edge board to your deck to use as a guide for your circular saw.
- Screw depth Don't sink screws too far into the decking material or you will create tiny pockets where water will collect. It's better to sink screws flush with the deck surface.
- Hide board ends For a clean and professional looking finish, hide the cut ends of your deck boards. The easiest way is to raise the skirting board so the top is flush with the deck surface. Another way is to install a perimeter board around the outside edges of your deck.
- Railing balusters When you attach the balusters, always start in the centre so the leftover space on each end is equal. You can start with a space in the middle or a baluster in the middle to allow the most even spacing.
- Don't give critters a home The space under your deck, even if its small, can become a home for unwanted wildlife. Dig a one foot deep trench around the outside perimeter of your deck. Secure a piece of quarter inch wire mesh along the bottom of the deck, then fill in the trench.

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PROJECT OF THE MONTH: DECKS

Power up with Makita

Makita has the necessary power tools you'll need for your DIY deck building project. At the top of the list are power tools for cutting and fastening. You'll be cutting a lot of boards so a circular saw or mitre saw with a carbide tip blade is recommended. The drill you'll need for fastening should be a minimum 18V drill-driver to give you the highest power. Cordless power tools give you the advantage of portability but be sure to have more than one fully charged battery on hand so your work won't be delayed. Makita offers a wide range of innovative, lightweight and efficient tools that are easy to use. A TIMBER MART Tool Specialist can guide you to the right Makita model for your needs.



Tnakita

Joist hangers

Simpson Strong-Tie metal LUS joist hangers are designed to secure two beams together for a stable and sturdy connection. Joist hangers deliver more durable joist support and allow more accurate placement of joists than end nailing or toe nailing. This is important for making a strong deck structure that can handle heavy loads over a long period of time. For optimum strength and safety, fasten joist hangers with Strong-Drive® SD Connector Screws specifically designed for compatibility with LUS joist hangers. These specialized screws can accurately fasten and align the joists while maintaining the heavy load.









There is a right way to build your deck and it starts by building a sound structure below the decking. Choosing the correct screw for the different elements of your deck is key. Reliable PWR Drive series screws are engineered for exceptional strength and ease of use. Their specialized thread design contributes to their superior holding power. Each PWR DRIVE screw features a unique "sticky" star drive and a matching drive bit for each screw is always included in every pack. All PWR DRIVE screws are protected from moisture and chemicals contained in pressure treated wood with the code compliant XHR-1000 anti-corrosion coating.



May



Canada's **Building** Centre

homeowner to-do checklist

Power wash

Give your outdoor hard surfaces a good cleaning with a power washer. This will include deck, patio, porch, sidewalk, fence, siding, driveway and outdoor furniture. Be sure to use a low setting for wood surfaces. For extra grimy surfaces, use a mixture of mild liquid soap and water. You'll be surprised by how much grime can accumulate.

Check & repair outdoor structures

Inspect your deck, fence, shed, pergola, swing set and any other outdoor structures. Repair or replace loose, warped or rotting boards. Check for excessive movement which may mean loose or unstable posts. Make sure water can easily run off and doesn't pool around the base of your structures.

Inspect garden tools

Check your garden hand tools so they are ready for the season. Clean off any caked on dirt with a wire brush and sharpen cutting blades. Do a full maintenance check on your lawnmower and sharpen the blade. Check your power yard tools and make sure they are clean and in working order.

Service your HVAC system

For the best performance, you should get your HVAC system checked every six months by a licensed professional. The best times are in the spring and fall, just before extreme weather. This will not only ensure your system will run smoothly for the entire season, it will also extend its longevity.

Deck maintenance

Both composite and wood decks will need cleaning in the spring. Check for loose boards and repair. Wood decks that look a bit worn will need sanding and staining to look fresh again. Wood decks previously stained or sealed with an oil-based product can be revived with another coat. This should be done every 2-3 years.

Clean BBQ/grill

Whatever kind of grill you use, spring is the time to give it a deep clean. Clean grates with soap and water and soak if necessary. Take apart as much of your grill as possible and clean. Check burners and replace any that don't work properly. Make sure you have a good supply of fuel to start the season.

Landscaping

May is the perfect time for landscaping. Start by trimming trees and shrubs. Mow, fertilize and top dress your lawn. Lay a fresh layer of mulch on your gardens. Plant perennials, annuals, trees and fill planters. Complete landscaping this month so you'll only require garden maintenance in summer and fall.

Check outdoor water supply

It's important to wait until
the temperature in your area
consistently stays above freezing
before turning on outdoor
faucets. When you do, check
faucets and garden hoses for
leaks and repair or replace if
necessary. Inspect in-ground
sprinkler system and get it
running.

Ceiling fans

Change the direction of your ceiling fans to counter clockwise in the spring. This direction increases airflow by pushing air down into the room and making the room feel cooler. The ceiling fans in your home assist your air conditioner by making your home feel cool and comfortable while using less energy.

Check attic

It's a good idea to check your attic twice a year, in spring and fall. Look for moisture issues, water stains and insects. If your attic gets excessively hot in the summer, you probably have a ventilation issue. You can reduce attic heat by adding venting soffits around the perimeter of your attic and a ridge vent to the top of your roof.

Clean ducts, vents & fans

Before you turn on your AC use this transitional period to have your home's ducts cleaned. Air ducts should be cleaned every 3-5 years. Also clean your cold air returns, dryer vent and bathroom fans. Remove the cage from floor, table and window fans and clean the blades.

Test sump pump

You should test your sump pump at least once a year. If the water level inside the pump is low, it's probably working fine. Slowly pour a 5 gallon bucket of water into the pump. The pump should turn as the water level reaches the top. If the pump doesn't turn on, it could be clogged or damaged. Sump pumps typically last 10 years.



