

Choosing a skateboard deck can be a tough decision when you are just starting out. There are so many different brands with different logos that come in different sizes. If you are serious about skating, it would be wise to avoid purchasing a generic skateboard (such as the ones sold at Wal-Mart). You are better off going to a skate shop and buying board with some potential. There are tons of online skate stores you can order from, or you can always do a search for skate shops in your area. The type of board you ride will ultimately depend on what you plan to be doing with it. You may want a board for transportation, for street skating, half pipe skating, or for something else. If you will be using your board strictly for transportation a.k.a. "cruising" you may consider purchasing a long board, or at least a board with bigger, softer wheels. Bigger, softer wheels will ride smoother, which is ideal for cruising. The down side of having a long board is that it may be harder to pull off tricks. For instance, a longer board may make it difficult to simply Ollie up a curb when necessary. If you are planning on mastering 360 flips, then a long board probably isn't the best choice for you. If you plan on skating street, you will be better off with a standard size board. By a standard sized board I am referring to a skate deck that is 31-32 inches in length. For street it is common to ride boards between 7.5-8.5 inches wide, although some prefer sizes beyond these ranges. A skater's favorite street terrain usually dictates their preference of various skate deck widths. For example, skateboarders that are into large gaps, stairs and handrails may feel the need to ride a wider board (8.0-8.5) for more stability and strength. On the other hand, manual pad and tech masters might enjoy using narrow boards (7.5-7.75) because they are lighter and easier to flip. Finally, if you plan on skating transitions such as half-pipes, quarter-pipes, ramps or pools, it is most common to ride a standard length board that is a bit wider (8.0-9.0) for stability. One way to see common trends of board sizes it to look at popular pro-model boards. For instance, take a look at most of Bob Burnquist's boards; he is a vert skater so most of his boards are above 8 inches wide. The article describes generalities of board sizes and choices for those in need of extra guidance picking the right skateboard deck. There is no reason why you shouldn't tear up handrails on a long-board or skate half-pipe with a 7.5 inch wide deck, the choice is yours. If you are still not sure the type of board you need, reach out to local skaters in your area for advice, but stick to your gut feeling when making the final decision. Skateboarding roots from self expression, so please choose a board that will allows you to do so.

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The coming months are perfect for planning the building of a new deck or the restoration of an existing deck. Decks are great additions that increase the value of your home while providing an outdoor living space to entertain or just relax. At first glance the restoration of an aging deck might seem like the more affordable and attractive route, but quite often upon inspection you may discover rotting wood, failing hardware and compromised footings. Rotting deck wood often exhibits signs of gapping, spacing, warping, unstable planks, visible wood rot and nails backing out.

Fixing or rebuilding using existing elements will likely not result in worthwhile savings. And in the case of a raised deck, patching it together could be unsafe. Your deck is the last place that should feel unsafe due to warping, rot, and other weather damage. There are also code requirements to consider, so starting fresh may be the best strategy.

The first thing to consider when planning your new deck is to ask yourself how you will use your deck. Do you like to entertain? A larger deck to accommodate backyard barbecues are obviously more expensive. If budget is a consideration you might start with a smaller deck that allows for expansion going forward.

Back to an earlier reference and that is will the deck be elevated or ground level? And if elevated, will it span over a sloped yard? If so, grading and post installation along with railings will be required. More time and expense. What elements are present in the yard that need to be considered, modified or removed? Again, things to consider when determining costs. So often homeowners desire a beautiful new deck, but fail to take into consideration all of the options and factors.

Perhaps the biggest consideration in the building of a deck is what materials to use. Sioux Falls decks are exposed

to a year round variety of elements. Wood is nice, but maintenance is crucial and often an expense and a time requirement many homeowners are not willing to invest in. Still wood offers plenty of choices and be sure to choose a product that is labeled by the Forest Stewardship Council, which means the wood product was harvested from a verified source.

A composite deck requires some maintenance but resists cracking and warping. There are many varieties and styles that translate into budget flexibility. Composite decks come in a variety of colors too, so matching your home's exterior or deck furniture becomes a consideration. And because composite decks are constructed of recycled wood or plastic the impact on the environment is reduced.

Once you have taken into consideration these and possibly other issues unique to your situation, the final decision is to hire a contractor or be a DIYer. Consider this...unless you can dedicate several hours a day to the project you may not be enjoying your new deck until well into the dog days of [Go here](#) summer, whereas a contractor can keep on the project from start to completion in a specified amount of time.