



HOMESHIELD

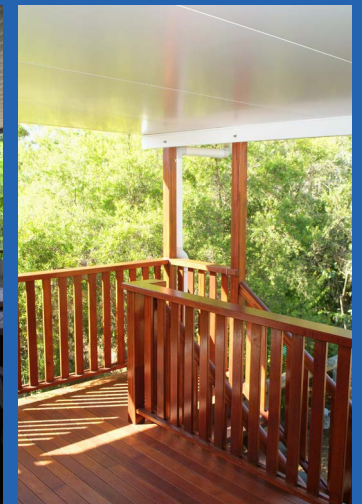
Patios & Decks

eGuide for Designing the Perfect Deck

Where do you start when you are designing a deck for your home?


Homeshield is here to make sure you get exactly what you want - a fully customised deck that fits your needs.

As a way of making it easier, this eGuide is designed as a practical “workbook” of things you should consider when conceptualising your outdoor entertaining area to ensure the design will result in the perfect deck.



At Homeshield we are specialist builders that purely concentrate on designing and building decks and patios for our clients. We have access to a variety of different building materials and this will always be our secondary focus. For us, we believe our design service is paramount for our clients. We ensure each design is customised to your personal situation and the area we create will be practical, sophisticated and will add real value to your home.

Phone 3216 2799
www.homeshield.com.au

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Deck Design

Designing a deck to suit your house and your lifestyle needs is tricky and some serious thought should be put into the design. Decks are considered a major expenditure and therefore you need to ensure that the deck will meet your requirements now and into the future.

You also need to ensure that this capital investment in your home will generate the right return when you sell your home. Outdoor entertainment areas sell your property. Look at the real estate advertisements - they always feature the deck, patio area or pool pictures to entice buyers.

As decks serve varying purposes, they should be designed for their intended use and consideration must be given to the following items:

- Aspect – protection from prevailing weather i.e. sun, wind and rain.

- Privacy – for both you and your neighbours. Are there any issues you'd like the project to address?

- Views – This will affect your preferred orientation and handrail design.

- Proximity to facilities – kitchen, toilet and stairs etc.

- Architectural Integration – What era or style is your home? Would you like your addition to match or contrast?

Size of the Deck

How big are you thinking? Bear in mind that in addition to the space you have available, the appropriate size will also come down to what you will be using the deck for. Below is a rule of thumb:

- 2 – 4 people with just table and chairs = 3m x 2.4m
 - 4 – 6 people with just table and chairs = 4m x 3m
 - 6 – 8 people with table, chairs and BBQ = 4.8m x 3.6m
 - 8 – 10 people with table, chairs and BBQ = 6m x 3.6m
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Building Materials

There are a few options when it comes to what the framing and flooring of your deck is built out of. The basic options and benefit are as follows:

FRAMING OPTIONS

- **Treated Pine** – species, strength, treatment type
- **Outdoor Grade Hardwood** – longevity, termite resistant, rich colours
- **Steel** – strength, versatility, longevity, powdercoated finish

FLOORING OPTIONS

- **Hardwood Decking Boards** – various species, colours & sizes
 - **Constructa Floor** – ready for tiling or outdoor carpet
 - **Timber Composite** – low maintenance, ideal for around pools, longevity, environmentally responsible
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Roof Layout and Shape

Are you thinking of a covered or uncovered deck? If covered, would you prefer:

Flat – Waterproof, Practical, Economical

Gabled – Open, Airy, Bright, match house gable with the gable pitch

Flat / Gable Combo – great in large areas, creates interest and adds appeal to the traditional roof line.

Flyover / Raised above House Roof – Breezy, Modern, Increases head height.



Flat



Gabled



Flat/Gabled Combo



Flyover

Roofing Materials

With so much choice being offered to consumers who and what do you believe? The basic options and benefit are as follows:

- **Steel** – Cost effective; many profiles and suppliers to choose from.
- **Aluminum** – Will not rust; ideal in coastal areas or around pools. Up to 34% cooler than steel roof sheets.
- **Insulated** – Roof and ceiling in one! Eliminates mildew & condensation; large unsupported spans - strong enough to walk on; excellent insulating properties & year round climate control (cool in summer, warm in winter).