

Deck Quote Checklist

RightSizeTools printable project worksheet

Use this before requesting deck quotes or when comparing wood, cedar, composite, or premium composite options.

Project snapshot

Project address / location		Target budget	
Preferred start window		Must-have scope	

Double-check included

- ☐ Existing deck demo and disposal
- ☐ Footings or piers
- ☐ Framing material and spacing
- ☐ Ledger flashing and attachment method
- ☐ Decking material and fastener system
- ☐ Rail type and railing length
- ☐ Stairs, landings, and handrails
- ☐ Permit and inspection handling
- ☐ Site cleanup

Clarify before signing

- ☐ Is the frame pressure treated, and what size joists/beams are assumed?
- ☐ Are posts, footings, and ledger details included?
- ☐ Are stairs included or priced separately?
- ☐ Is railing linear footage clearly stated?
- ☐ Is picture framing or border detail included?
- ☐ How are hidden rot, siding damage, or ledger issues handled?

Common budget surprises

- ☐ Rot behind an old ledger
- ☐ Code-required railing or stair changes
- ☐ More footings than expected
- ☐ Poor access for digging
- ☐ Composite fascia, plugs, hidden fasteners, or picture framing
- ☐ Permit requirements or inspections

Ways to save without cutting corners

- ☐ Keep the layout simple and rectangular.

- ☐ Avoid unnecessary elevation changes.
- ☐ Use standard railing layouts.
- ☐ Choose picture framing only where it adds clear value.
- ☐ Decide wood vs composite early so framing/detail assumptions are right.

Quote comparison table

Item	Quote A	Quote B	Quote C
Deck size			
Deck height			
Decking material			
Framing details			
Footings			
Railing			
Stairs			
Demo/disposal			
Permit included?			
Exclusions/allowances			

Helpful prep before the visit

- ☐ Measure the approximate deck length and width.
- ☐ Take photos of the existing deck, ledger, stairs, and access path.
- ☐ Decide whether you want wood or composite.
- ☐ Decide if the deck footprint should change.
- ☐ Note any septic, vent, door, or grading issues nearby.

Notes

Preferred material	
Stair location	
Railing style	
Access/yard constraints	