

Windsor Plywood's

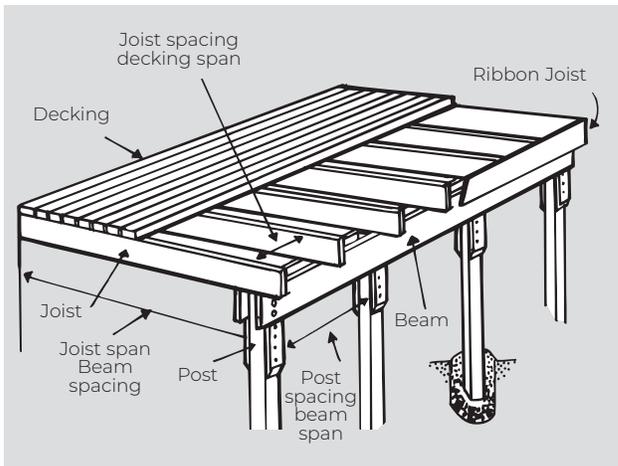
DECK PLANNER

THERE'S NO END TO
THE POSSIBILITIES



Components of a Deck

The main components of a deck are: footings, posts, beams, joists, decking and railings.



Check Lists

The knowledgeable Windsor Plywood staff can help you plan and advise you on your deck material needs.

Tools

- Mason's Line
- Plumb Bob
- Framing Square
- Shovel
- Hammer
- Measuring Tape
- Wrench
- Chalk Line
- Saw
- Drill
- Countersink Bit
- Safety Glasses

Materials

- Concrete
- Nails
- Deck Screws*
- Lag Screws*
- Concrete Piers
- Hex Bolts with Nuts & Washers*
- Lumber for Posts, Ledgers, Beams & Joists
- Decking Material
- Railing Material
- Stain
- Brushes & Thinner
- 6 Mil Black Polyethylene

*To prevent premature corrosion and failure when working with ACQ treated lumber it is important to use only ACQ approved metal products including fasteners.

Material Choices



Treated

Softwood which has been ACQ treated to prevent premature aging, rot and insects.



Cedar

Naturally resistant to moisture, decay and insect attack. Takes stain and coatings beautifully.



Hardwood

Hardwood flooring for the outdoors! Resistant to rot and takes stain well.



Composite

For those individuals who are looking for a maintenance free deck requiring no refinishing.

Planning Your Deck

Your first step should be selecting the ideal location. First consider how you will access the deck from your house. Then observe the amount of sun and shade your deck will receive during different times of day. Sometimes increasing the size or moving the location by a few feet can make a huge difference to the amount of direct sun or shade your deck will receive.

Now determine the size, try and keep the deck proportioned to your home. Keep in mind that most building materials are sold in even lengths (8', 10', 12' etc.) and that longer lengths may command a premium price for some components. Also check your local building codes, deck sizes and elevations may factor into whether or not a permit is required.

Choose your decking material before you start. The dimension and type of material you select will determine the required spacing of your joists. To determine the actual dimensions of your posts, beams and joists check your local building code. You may also need a building permit.

Getting Started

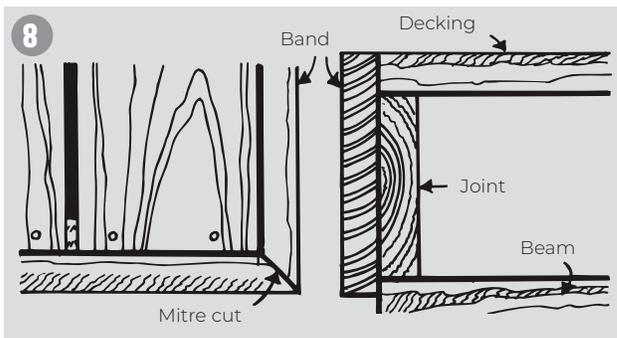
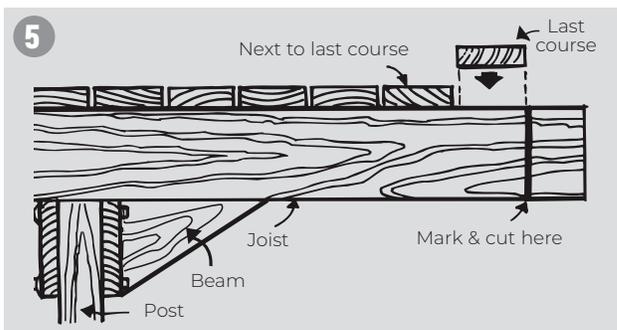
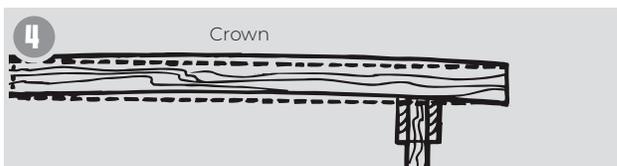
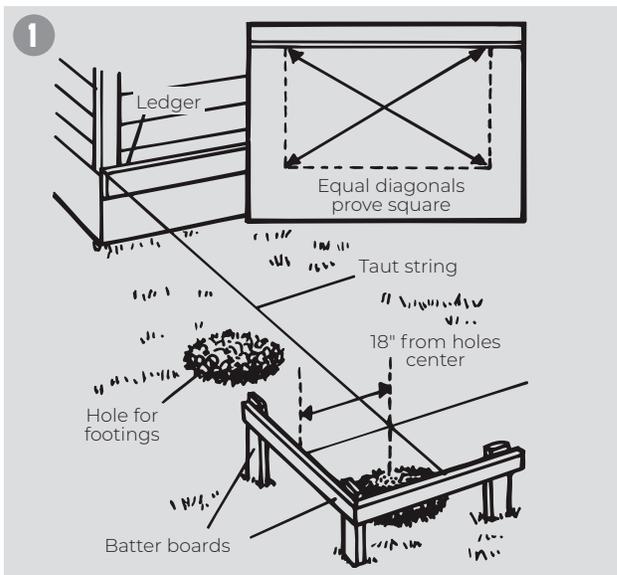
First prepare the ground area by removing any sod and sloping the ground away from your house. Mark the position of the ledger on your wall, normally a ledger should be 1" below the bottom of the door plus the thickness of the decking. The ledger should be level and attached to the house with lag bolts. Ensure that the lag bolts penetrate through the wall sheathing and into the studs.

Laying Out the Deck

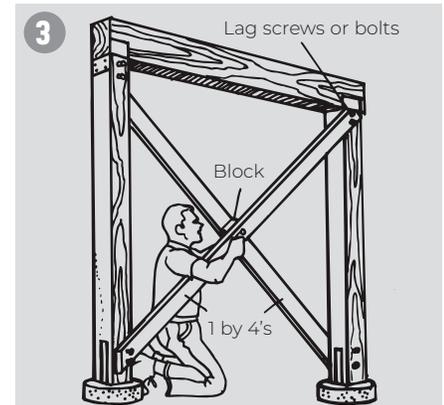
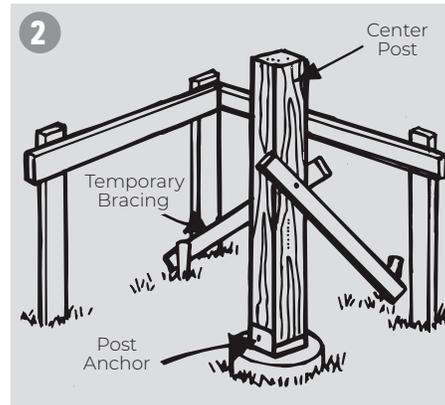
Measure out from each end of the ledger approximately 24" past the outside edge of your deck. Drive batter boards into the ground and run tight strings from each end of the ledger to the batter boards (see *diag. 1*). Run a third string between the batter boards to establish the outside edge of your deck. Now square the deck by measuring diagonally and the moving the strings on the batter boards until the measurements are equal.

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Using a plumb bob in conjunction with the layout strings establish the location of the footings or pier blocks. Place your posts on the piers and temporarily brace upright (see *diag. 2*). Use a level to ensure that they are plumb.



Now run a mason line from your ledger to the post, check the level with a line level and mark the post height. The height of the post should be equal to the bottom of the ledger less your beam size and desired slope (most decks are sloped slightly away from the house to encourage water to run off).

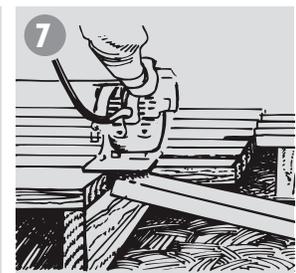
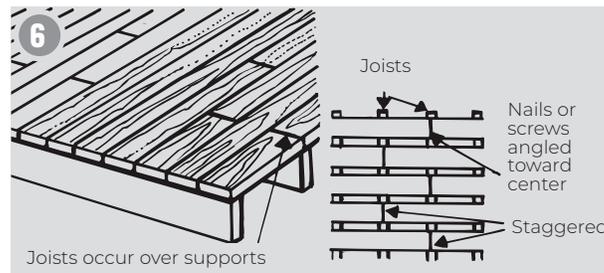
Attach the beam to the posts (see *diag. 3*) with appropriate hardware (see Metal Connectors) and if required by local building codes install cross bracing.

Mark the joist locations on the ledger and the beam, install the joist hangers and set the joists in place. If the joists are crowned (see *diag. 4*) make sure to put the crown up.

Trimming the joists to correct length can wait until you are installing the decking. This allows you to trim the deck joists to the exact length required to accept the full width of the last row of decking (see *diag. 5*).

Installing The Decking

Start installing the decking from the house, select a good straight board for your first course as it will be a guide for subsequent rows. When deck boards need to be joined the joint must be directly over the center of the joist (see *diag. 6*). Joints should be staggered between rows, no two joints should be adjacent to each other.



Often deck boards may have bow that needs to be pulled out. This is done by forcing the bow out as you fasten from one end to the other. Boards should be spaced 1/8" - 1/4" apart, a common nail or carpenter pencil can be used as a spacer. Pilot holes will reduce the chance of splitting and should always be used when fastening the ends of a board. Boards should be laid with the heartside down. Decking can be cut to length after it has been installed (see *diag. 7*).

Following this technique ensures a fit between your deck material and the edge banding that gives your deck a finished appearance (see *diag. 8*).

The Finishing Touches

With the decking and banding installed you can now add your railings and stairs. Many railing options exist including wood systems, or the maintenance free, prefinished aluminum and composite options shown here.



- A** Wood railing system for a traditional look
- B** Composite rail system available to match decking
- C** Aluminum railing. See Do-it-yourself video at windsorplywood.com

Optional Accessories

- DekMate Bench Brackets
- Wood Palings
- Wood & Vinyl Lattice Panels
- Aluminum Patio Covers

Availability may vary from location to location.

