

SERIOUSLY COOL DECK ADD-ONS

We're happy you chose to download this list of seriously cool deck add-ons. For an instant improvement, turning your boring deck into your happy place. These are courtesy of the Family Handyman. Enjoy!



Shade Shelter

You don't have to let the blazing sun or drippy weather drive you indoors. One of our favorite DIY deck ideas, this simple covered pergola, will keep you comfortable long after your neighbors with unsheltered decks have given up and gone inside.



Deck Lighting

Plan and install a low-voltage lighting system to light up your deck. **No electrical skills needed; you simply plug the system into an existing outlet.** It'll highlight deck features without glare and is safe and easy to install.



Custom Post Caps

One of our favorite customizable DIY deck ideas is to make your own post caps. The decorative touch will give your deck a professionally built feel!



Built-In Planters

Planters make a striking addition to any deck, and also create more privacy, making the outdoor space feel almost like a separate room.



Privacy Fence

Convert a deck railing into a handsome privacy screen and block nosy neighbors, unsightly views, wind and noise. It's easy to build and will fit most decks. And it'll make your deck a more comfortable, welcoming place.



Awning

Cool deck ideas make you think of shade! A canopy patio awning is a fabric-roofed structure supported by a freestanding, rigid frame that's bolted to your deck. The frame becomes a permanent part of your deck, and you can either leave the fabric up year-round or remove it seasonally. The fabric should last about 15 years.



Railing-Mounted Planter

In a little under an hour, you can make this simple railing-mounted planter. All you need is some standard gutter parts.



Refresh Deck Posts

One way to spruce up posts is to cover them with a maintenance-free material. AZEK makes a PVC Column Wrap that's super easy to install. Simply glue together three sides, slide them over the post, glue and clamp the last side in place, and then never worry about painting or staining again.



Outdoor Storage and Seating

It's just a box made from four frames with legs that wrap around the corners. The panels that fill the frames are plywood with waterproof fabric stapled over them. Covering the plywood seat with foam and fabric is something even an upholstery novice can manage. This bench is easy to customize, too: You can change the dimensions; choose fabric to complement other patio furniture, and stain the wood to match your deck or paint it to match your house.



String Lights

There's nothing quite like the twinkle of outdoor lighting on a cool summer night.



And for a Little Warmth...

A fire table is a beautiful addition to your outdoor living space—and an invitation to gather around. It's also a stylish centerpiece that gives you a great opportunity to showcase your DIY prowess.



The Whole Shebang

This deck isn't huge—about 16 ft. wide x 18 ft. deep plus bays and stairs—but it's big on features. The upper deck is just the right size for entertaining small groups—spacious but intimate. It has cantilevered nooks on both sides that provide space for seating and barbecue storage. The pergola shades the upper deck and the home's interior from the sun, and it offers a space for hanging or climbing plants. The lower deck is a great place to hang out in the sun, while the cascading stairs flow into the yard and provide lots of space for planters and pots.

