

# Deck vs. Patio: Which One Is Right for You?

Two worthy outdoor opponents. One difficult question: Should I choose a deck or patio?

If you're going to invest in an outdoor space, you want to carefully consider all of the factors. Learn the difference between a deck and patio, and then use the deck vs. patio pros and cons charts below to help you decide.

## The difference between a deck and patio

A deck is an open outdoor porch or platform without a roof that extends from a house. On the other hand, a patio is a paved area situated directly on the ground, which can either be attached or detached from a house. Railings, built in seating and canopies can be easily added to both. Patios are generally less expensive than decks, but the ROI value of a deck when a home is put on the market is sometimes greater than a patio. However, both additions can offer a great experience depending on what you're looking for. Now that you know the difference between a patio and deck, use the charts below to help you decide which one is right for you.



## Pros and cons of a deck

Pros of a deck	Cons of a deck
<b>Higher resale value</b> Although both a deck and a patio will provide a return on investment, the amount for a wooden deck is on average higher, offering a higher return than all indoor home renovations.	<b>Costly maintenance</b> Depending on the material, decks need to be power washed, stained and sealed every couple of years requiring the cost of both time and supplies.
<b>Works well on uneven terrain</b> Decks can be installed on any type of land, even if your yard is not level.	<b>Shorter lifespan</b> Wood is more susceptible to weather and can rot over time, as well as fade and become discolored if not properly treated.
<b>Good for a view</b> Since a deck can be built off the ground, it serves up a better view.	<b>Possible permit</b> Many towns and cities have different terms and may require a permit before building a deck, which may mean a fee and a waiting period.
<b>Easily customizable</b> A wooden deck can be painted or stained to the color or shade you desire. It can even be stained to match the exterior design of your house.	<b>Expensive</b> While the price depends on the material, decks are usually more expensive, with an average cost of \$30 per square foot for high-end decking material.
<b>Comfortable in heat</b> If you live in a warmer climate and your home gets a lot of sunlight, wooden decks naturally absorb and retain less heat.	<b>Weight restrictions</b> Consider weight when it comes to deck design, specifically when you want to add a hot tub or outdoor kitchen. The more weight added, the greater the materials and construction costs.

## Pros and cons of a patio

Pros of a patio	Cons of a patio
<b>Less expensive</b> Installing a patio flush to the ground can cost much less than a deck. At about \$5 a square foot, concrete is usually the least expensive option.	<b>Cost can be effected by the terrain</b> Patis are best suited for even ground. The expense required to properly prepare the surface can make the overall cost higher.
<b>Easy maintenance</b> Patis don't require regular maintenance. While you may choose to seal your patio, it's not necessary, since concrete, pavers and stone patios are extremely durable.	<b>Prone to cracks</b> There's risk of a patio cracking if the soil under the concrete is not properly addressed prior to construction. Cracking may also be more likely in areas of extreme temperatures.
<b>More privacy</b> Patis are lower to the ground and have more flexibility in design and landscaping to provide privacy.	<b>Slipping risk</b> During cold weather ice can form on outdoor surfaces so attention needs to be given to both decks and patios. Ice can sometimes form more easily on a patio's surface and may raise the risk of falling.
<b>Long lifespan</b> A quality patio can last more than 25 years and maintain its value without much upkeep.	<b>Susceptible to stains</b> Once a patio's surface is stained with food, drink or natural stains such as leaves, it's difficult to clean. Colored concrete, stamped concrete and sealers can combine to minimize if not eliminate this issue.
<b>No permits</b> Installing a patio doesn't typically require a building permit or inspections.	<b>More construction</b> Patis may require more intensive construction and can take longer to install, particularly in areas with a lot of ground movement and where reinforcement is necessary.

If you add a deck or patio to your home, it's a good idea to make sure you have the necessary property coverage.

*Adapted from <https://blog.nationwide.com>*