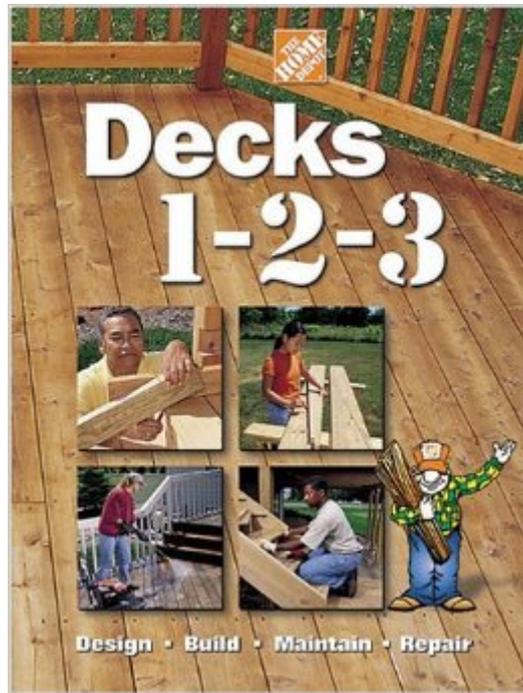


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# Decks 1-2-3 (Home Depot ... 1-2-3)



## Synopsis

75 projects teach how to design, build, accessorize, repair, and maintain decks. Includes expert tips on customizing plans.

## Book Information

Series: Home Depot ... 1-2-3

Hardcover: 192 pages

Publisher: The Home Depot; illustrated edition edition (March 15, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0696211858

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Product Dimensions: 8.2 x 0.7 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (60 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #80,950 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Decks & Patios](#) #29 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Outdoor & Recreational Areas](#) #47 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Carpentry](#)

## Customer Reviews

This is quite simply an excellent book on deck building. I have read many, and overall I think it is the best. It is probably best for those of intermediate skill level (those they call "handy" in their 3-level self-rating scale) because my guess is that people with absolutely no construction or design knowledge probably won't find enough information to really understand what the structural issues are. For example, the joist/beam/post spacing tables are rather sparse: enough information to do the calculations if you know what you're doing, but probably difficult to figure out if you don't. However, for many of us, it's just the thing. One of my favorite parts is all the Work Smart hints scattered throughout the book. These are tips from pro builders giving ideas and information that us non-pro wouldn't know. There are even tips in there about what to do if you make a mistake in building. The pictures are great too, better than any other deck building book I've used. This is where the book really shines. They give you step-by-step instructions with full pictures of several different decks under construction. The concrete pouring sequence alone is worth the price of the book. Despite all the tools they list that are mentioned in a previous review, it seems pretty honest to

me: for example, they tell you, under mixing your own concrete: Pros don't mix their own concrete, they get trucks to deliver it. Pretty good, considering that Home Depot sells concrete mix and all the tools required to mix it yourself! The only major thing I can think of that it doesn't cover is composite decking materials. These are all the rage nowadays, of course, but they require some changes in design. It would be nice to have information on these changes, and hopefully future editions will have this information. Overall, an excellent book, and well worth its price.

Wonderful reference book. I had little experience building anything, and I built myself a deck with this book. I learned as much from studying the photographs as from the text. Highly recommended.

I own five "deck" books. "Decks" by B&D, "Decks 1-2-3" by H/Depot, "Building Decks" by Fine Home Building, "How to Build a Deck" by Daniels, and the "Complete Deck Book" by J. Beneke. Out of these five books, "Decks 1-2-3" is the best overall deck book (2006 edition). It is comprehensive, included several insider tips called "Work Smarter," and has a host of pictures that explain the how and why of fine deck building; no matter what the size. In addition, you may want to use Decks 1-2-3 in conjunction with the free bighammer.com software (use it with Internet Explorer and not any other browser or you will have problems...as I soon discovered using Mozilla). I used it exclusively with Decks 1-2-3 and it turned to be an invaluable resource while conducting my sketches, to intricate planning, to the physical building process and deck surface finishing. ALL the books have bits and pieces that each one does not have collectively yet compliment each other. However, if I had to choose between all the books and only had the money to buy one resource, it would be, hands down, Decks 1-2-3. (You can get a new or very new copy for less than \$8.00, to include shipping).

If you only buy one book, buy 'Decks 1-2-3' from the Home Depot series. This book tells you darn near everything you will need to know to build a deck. Their attempts to sell you every tool imaginable are pretty transparent -- there are several pages devoted to listing the "essential" tools, all of which are conveniently available for purchase at your nearest Home Depot. However, the technical descriptions of the construction tasks are clearly illustrated and explained, and that's really what matters. I recently built a wooden deck in my backyard. For other suggestions and review, check out my 'So you'd like to...' guide.

The latest in Home Depot's how-to series, Decks 1-2-3 really delivers the goods! Being the visual learner that I am, I was very impressed with the amount of helpful photos in the book, showing the

homeowner how to plan, organize, and carry through the installation of a deck for their home. Not only do the editors provide the homeowner with simple steps and checklists for the project, but they also provide designer tips and a skill scale to give you an idea of what you're in for before you plunge right in with one of their projects. Well organized and very well illustrated, this one's already taken its place beside the others on the shelf in my Home Depot library.

A BIG BOX BUILDING BOOK, Clear and explicit. Lots of photos. Words a non-professional can understand. Realistic cutting angles (not "12.36degrees" but all basics like 45 and 90. Data tables that make sense. Tool lists and explanations. This book was filled with confidence-building insights. Now I can get out there and build Build BUILD!

This is probably my second favorite deck construction book. It is a good supplement to Building Decks. I use them both. This is better as a first book, as it is easier to read, but Building Decks goes into more detail.

It is a great book for everyone building a deck; it gives great ideas for the decking, a lot of design ideas. It is easy to follow; straight through. I recommend it for everyone but specially for beginners.

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