Deck Designer
Specification Worksheet
Please answer the following questions accurately and completely. All questions must be answered in order to begin designing your deck.

**REMEMBER: BE SURE TO CHECK YOUR LOCAL CODES AND BUILDING REQUIREMENTS BEFORE DESIGNING.**

For the custom design of your new deck, we will need some basic information. Please accurately measure the side(s) of your home where the deck is to be built. Measure and indicate the placement of any existing obstructions such as chimneys, trees, etc.

Please answer the following:

1. Don’t waste your time and money. In order to be sure your deck is designed to meet local building codes, you must determine the proper load requirements for your deck. It is your responsibility to research these loads with a professional in your area and verify that the selected load meets code. A simple call to your local municipality will get you the right answer. Do not guess here!

   - Live load for deck and stairs:  
     - 40 PSF
     - 60 PSF

   - Static load for deck and stairs:  
     - 10 PSF
     - 20 PSF

2. What is the height from the ground to the top of the finished deck floor? (Note: if your deck sits on uneven ground, choose the larger of the two height dimensions).

   - 24”
   - 48”
   - 72”
   - 30”
   - 54”
   - 84”
   - 36”
   - 60”
   - 90”
   - 42”
   - 66”
   - 96”

3. What type of post footer is required?
   - Concrete pier
   - Post IN concrete
   - Post ON concrete
4. What is the footer depth (below ground)?
   - 18"
   - 24"
   - 30"
   - 36"
   - 42"
   - 48"

5. What beam size will you use?
   - 2 x 8
   - 2 x 10
   - 2 x 12
   - Let the experts decide

6. What post size is required? (If unsure, use 4 x 4)
   - 4 x 4
   - 6 x 6

7. How will you secure the deck planking?
   - Nails
   - Screws

8. What finish will you put on the deck once built?
   - Stain
   - Water Sealer
   - None
The following questions are included to help you prepare for the finished design of your deck. Think about your preferences now. These questions will actually be answered within the program.

9. What type of lumber would you like for your deck planking and railings?
   - Pressure-treated pine
   - Non-pressure-treated pine
   - Cedar
   - Premium redwood
   - Commercial grade redwood
   - Synthetic material

10. How do you want your deck planking to align with the main wall? (Indicate main wall on your sketch).
    - Parallel
    - Perpendicular
    - Diagonal left
    - Diagonal right

You are now ready to sketch your deck on the printed layout grid sheet (graph paper).

Label all dimensions and indicate the placement of the house, walls, etc. Don’t forget to indicate the main wall and the direction for the planking.

Start by drawing the main deck area. The shapes below will help you get started.

Be sure to include the following…
- All dimensions of the outside edges of the deck
- Where the deck is attached to the house
- Note any modifications to the main deck such as 45° angle, rounded corners, notches, etc. and their respective sizes.
If your deck is more than one level, be sure to include the following for each level…
 ✓ Show where the new level attaches to the main (or other) level
 ✓ All dimensions for the outside edges of the new level
 ✓ Note any modifications to the main deck such as 45° angle, rounded corners, notches, etc. and their respective sizes.

If your deck will have a built-in pool or hot tub, be sure to include the following…
 ✓ Size of pool or hot tub
 ✓ Square or round
 ✓ Location on the deck level (Note: no pool or hot tub can be designed closer than 2 feet to the edge of any level or structure)

If the deck will have an opening for a tree or planter, please note the following…
 ✓ Size of the opening (width and length)
 ✓ Location on the deck level (Note: it cannot be closer than 2 feet to the edge of any level or structure
 ✓ Location of aprons

For further details, we have also provided you with an example of a free-hand deck design with all of the necessary information supplied. If you have any trouble answering the questions above, please refer to this sample drawing for guidance.
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Name (print): George Behrens
Scale of Drawing: ☑ 1"=5' ☐ 1"=10'

Diagram of a deck with dimensions and features labeled:
- Door
- Wall
- Apron
- Hot Tub
- Bench
- Steps

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