



Selecting the Right Deck Company

By John Paulin, Tailor Decks

Looking for a good deck contractor in Atlanta? I must admit that the options have never been more plentiful...particularly with the somewhat loose set of certifications in the state. It's important to remember that in addition to adding beautiful space to your home...a deck also has a dramatic effect on the value of your property. And this is important when one day home prices come back and you go to sell it. With this in mind, I encourage you to take some time to become familiar with the below options.

The first step is to determine your needs. Atlanta area weather can be extreme at times...both very hot and very cold. This coupled with precipitation produces a wide range of weather and demands that your decking materials are very durable. There are a myriad of material options today that didn't exist even back in the 70's. The internet is a great starting place to do a little research on all the different options available today. (Also, remember to take a look about our article on what we feel is a great decking material to build with...namely "TailorWood".)

The development of new materials and technologies isn't the only thing that benefits consumers. The other thing is the ability to hire contractors at a good price these days...not only for their time but their ability to get the materials in bulk. Atlanta area decking contractors also have a great deal of experience and offer generally good, honest advice.

So how does one find a good, reputable decking company? Of course, there's always the ages-old referral process where you ask your neighbors. That's what I like to do. But I honestly think that the internet has become just as valuable a tool...not only in researching the best options but for finding a good decking partner. Another option is to look at your local chamber of commerce or inquire at a local building trade association. The contractors you find there will be those who generally want to provide good service and are in it for "the long haul".

So assuming you've found one that you really like, it's important to do a little research to make sure that they have all the right credentials and that they operate to certain standards. Some important things to uncover is whether they have full-time employees or whether they contract out. I would suggest going with the former as the employees would be covered by workman's comp (relieving you of any liability)...and I find that employees tend to do better work. You also want to make sure they're licensed, such as a general contractor's license. How about guarantees? Do they offer manufacturer's guarantees? How about guarantees for their own work? Last but not least, it's good to check some references.



If you've chosen a vendor, unfortunately it's not the end of the process. In order to make sure they have the ability to do a good job for you, make the job accessible for them...with clean grounds and access to all important areas. And review plans again before you start as well as during the work, etc. By setting them up in a helpful way, you're setting everyone up for success!