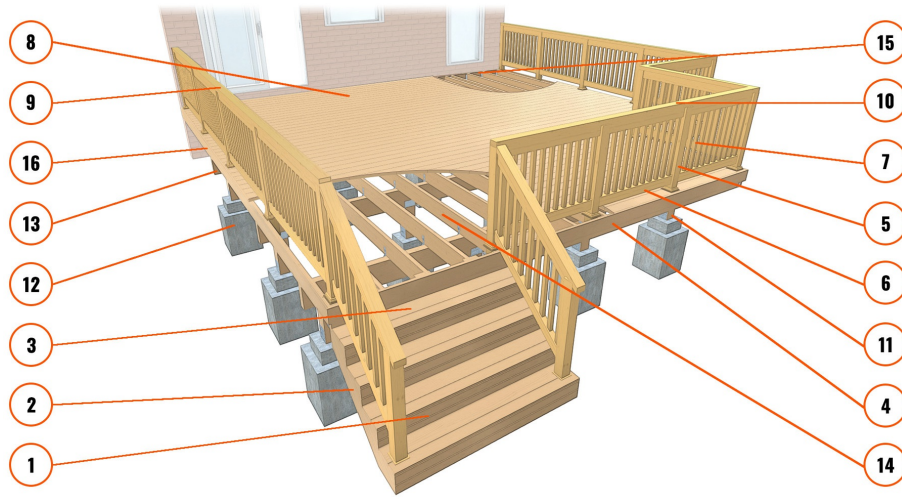


## Glossary of Decking Terms



**1. Risers:** The vertical boards attached to the stair stringers. Many localities require risers to prevent possible trip hazards.

**2. Stringers:** The structural support for stairs. They have limits on how much weight they can carry, so size and spacing are important considerations. Composite manufacturers provide recommended stringer spacing to support the tread material.

**3. Treads:** The horizontal stair surfaces on which deck users walk.

**4. Rim Joist:** Also known as edge bands, the rim joist wraps the deck and keeps the joists standing on edge, while also providing a solid surface for attaching railing posts. Proper attachment is critical to installing a safe railing.

**5. Rail Post:** Vertical lumber member that supports the handrail and resists the outward force of people leaning on the railings.

**6. Bottom Rails:** Lumber members that connect to the rail posts and provide a solid surface for securing the infills.

**7. Infills:** Also known as balusters or pickets, the infills are connected to the top and bottom rails and provide a barrier against falls.

**8. Decking:** When properly attached to each joist and rim joist, the decking surface (whether wood or composite material) helps unify the entire structure.

**9. Rail Cap:** Much like the decking, the rail cap unifies the railing system and provides a decorative feature.

**10. Top Rails:** These members have the same stabilizing function as the bottom rails.

**11. Post:** Vertical structural member that supports the beams and attaches the deck to the footings using a post base.

**12. Footing:** Concrete element that serves as the foundation of the deck.

**13. Beams:** Structural members that support the decking floor joists. Beams are made of doubling 2x material and can be installed as a laminate, sandwiched, or notched into the post.

It is important to have a post of sufficient size and strength to support the beam. The beam should not be any wider than the thickness of the post, and should be secured with the correct post cap.

**14. Joists:** Wood members installed across the beams and spaced to accommodate the decking material. The joist spacing may depend on the angle at which the deck boards are applied.

**15. Ledger:** The ledger is a crucial connection because it attaches the deck to the house. The material used to construct the house may determine the type of connection. Consult local building officials on the recommended connection.

**16. Fascia:** Vertical boards that face outwards from the edges of the deck, attached to the rim joists. Fascia boards typically consist of a lumber species that matches the appearance of the decking material.