

# TsT Home Improvement Services

## Tip of the Month By Tom S. Truesdale

### Decks, Patios and Pavers

Spring is almost here and as the weather improves spending relaxing time outside with friends and family is an American tradition. An addition to or construction of a new deck, patio or paver area can add value to your home while providing outdoor recreational space. There are many options and several things that should be considered before beginning construction of a new patio, paver area or deck.



#### Consider Size & Layout:

- How many people would you like to accommodate?
- What type of outdoor furniture do you plan to purchase?
- Will the space be used for outdoor cooking?
- Think about shading from the sun.

#### Decks:

- Treated lumber is the most cost effective but comes with ongoing maintenance and upkeep.
- Composite products are available and can be affordable but upfront material costs are higher than treated wood products.
- Lifetime guarantees are available on some products.
- Composite products as virtually maintenance free.
- Fully composite handrail systems with decorative caps, in a variety of colors and railing spindles, can add ascetic uniqueness; the possibilities are virtually endless.

#### Concrete Patios:

- Concrete is a great option to consider if your project is being built at ground level.
- Concrete is extremely durable and low maintenance.
- Up front placement cost is generally higher than wood but less than composite decking.
- Stamped concrete can provide a decorative look and the options are endless.
- Stamped concrete can equal or exceed the cost of a composite deck,

depending on the complexity of the pattern.

#### Paver Areas:

- Pavers can provide a great blend with landscaping and planting.
- Proper installation is labor intensive and critical with paver or else freeze thaw cycles can disrupt and damage the product.
- Pavers systems can be built to incorporate a fire pit or custom outdoor fireplace. Something decks and concrete can not do.

Whether your project is a deck, concrete patio or an outdoor paver system, the options vary greatly from system to system, site to site. Planning and research of products should be carefully reviewed before starting your project. Depending on your location and type of project, permitting may be required. Review your local building codes and always consult with a local qualified contractor for advise and guidance. Hope you enjoy the upcoming spring season with family and friends and I hope you have found this months dialog helpful, TsT.

## TsT Home Improvement Services

Helping people one job at a time...

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## GENERAL CONTRACTING

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