

Pool Deck Layout & Cut Sheet

Frame a custom, freestanding half-moon deck that perfectly hugs your pool.

Use these pro framing elevations and scribe techniques to achieve a seamless, built-in look. Always verify your local codes before digging footings.

● Clearances & Elevations

2-3 in

Freestanding posts setback from pool wall

1/2-3/4 in

Load-free pool wall clearance gap

1 in

Decking thickness and hatch cleat drop

3/16 in

Board gap from hidden-clip fastening

1/4 in

Secret skimmer hatch inner clearance

Account for joist tape

When calculating your flush deck height, subtract your decking thickness from the top rail, but remember to include joist tape thickness so your transition stays perfectly level.



● Scribe-Cut Curved Edge

- 1 **Trace the radius** Run a wooden spacer-block along the top rail with a pencil against the opposite side.
- 2 **Cut the arc** Use a jigsaw on temporarily fastened boards for the tightest, most accurate curved edge.
- 3 **Smooth the ends** Use a router with a round-over bit to match the factory finish and prevent splinters.

● **Style Your Built-In Deck**

Find your row: **Your backyard vibe**

Your backyard vibe	Your pick	Why
Sleek and contemporary	Charcoal boards, black metal	Modern monochrome edge
Lush tropical oasis	Natural timber, glass balustrades	Warm cedar wrap
Breezy beach retreat	Distressed white, navy stripes	Coastal whitewash feel
Cozy and rustic	Weathered brown, galvanized steel	Rustic farmhouse charm

● **Secret Skimmer Hatch Framing**

- 1

Install double joists Place them on both sides of the skimmer plumbing for maximum rigidity.
- 2

Add perpendicular blocking Create a perfectly square frame around the access zone to prevent boards from sagging.
- 3

Mount support cleats Attach them below the joist tops to catch the panel and keep it completely stable.
- 4

Build the panel Secure short board segments to a discrete backing frame, leaving a subtle finger notch.

● **Pre-Build Site Check**

- ☐

Verify local setback codes for accessory structures near property lines.
- ☐

Confirm your existing pool top rail is perfectly level across the span.
- ☐

Mark the exact skimmer location on the ground before digging footings.
- ☐

Ensure concrete footings stay completely outside the pool's original over-dig zone.

● **Project Notes**

Enjoy your beautifully crafted, seamless pool deck all summer long!