Raised-Deck Planting Sheet

Build a self-mulching border you will actually enjoy looking down on.

Transform that awkward, weedy space under your railing with this foolproof guide. Keep your structural wood safe while creating a lush, intentionally structured garden border.



Deck Landscaping Specs

¾-inch
Angular stone locks out weeds permanently

3 inches
Depth of the under-deck gravel bed

6 inches
Gravel collar around every concrete footing

½ mature spread
Setback depends on mature plant size

2x a week
Deep watering for new thyme plugs

Prevent Muddy Gravel Runoff

Keep your rich planting soil slightly lower than the gravel bed. Grading soil away from the stone boundary keeps your clean gravel pristine during heavy summer storms.

Drip Line Setback Guide

Find your row: **Shrub's Mature Spread**

Shrub's Mature Spread	Your pick	Why
2 feet wide	1-foot setback	Keeps branches off balusters
4 feet wide	2-foot setback	Avoids heavy roof runoff
6 feet wide	3-foot setback	Prevents crushing tender foliage

Flush Steel Mow Edge Install

1. **Mark bed boundaries** Measure exact distance from structural posts to outer decking boards.
2. **Grade the soil** Slope the bare soil gently away from your house foundation.
3. **Install steel flush** Keep the thin, dark boundary perfectly level with the lawn.
4. **Manage the transition** Keep rich planting soil slightly lower than the gravel bed.

Your 20-Plant Shortlist

- [ ] Sun: Mounding perennials like fragrant lavender and structural agave.
- [ ] Part Shade: Dwarf evergreens with compact, rounded habits.
- [ ] Under-Deck Shade: Textural ferns for lush woodland layering.
- [ ] Living Mulch: Creeping thyme spreads quickly to suppress weeds.
- [ ] Mix these to complete your 20-plant garden center shortlist.

Before You Order Stone

- [ ] Remove all existing organic mulch and debris under the deck.
- [ ] Verify heavy-duty, permeable weed fabric separates soil from stone.
- [ ] Check ten-year growth estimates on nursery tags before digging.
- [ ] Calculate bulk volume; remember stone settles naturally into uneven ground.

Project Notes & Measurements

Enjoy your beautiful, weed-free deck border and those vibrant summer blooms!