Elevated Deck Layout Guide

Finalize your structural layout for a dry, usable space above and below.

Bring your second-story deck plans to life with confidence. Use this guide to map out your framing and gather the exact materials for your build.



Key Measurements

1/2 in gap
Flashing at ledger using spacers

45 deg, 2-3 ft
Diagonal wind bracing length

1/4 in per ft
Hidden deck trough slope

3-4 in
Saved by fascia-mounted rail

5x5 ft
Tucked spiral stairs footprint

max 4 in
Cable railing spacing

8-9 ft
Lower patio clearance for fans

4-6 ft
Staggered solid blocking spacing

Seal Out Hidden Moisture

Never mix aluminum flashing with copper-treated lumber. Always squeeze exterior-grade silicone caulk into ledger pilot holes before driving lag screws to protect your home's framing from rot.

Tensioning Cable Rails

1. **Set corner posts** Install rigid stainless steel corner posts first to establish your exact perimeter.
2. **Thread the cables** Drill aligned pass-through holes and thread cables starting from the bottom run.
3. **Tighten turnbuckles** Tension the hardware until cables deflect less than a quarter inch.
4. **Revisit and adjust** Retighten every turnbuckle with a wrench about six weeks after installation.

Ledger Fastener Spacing

Find your row: **Your joist span**

Your joist span	Your pick	Why
Up to 6 feet	30 inches apart	Supports shorter deck spans
Up to 8 feet	23 inches apart	Balances medium structural loads
Up to 10 feet	18 inches apart	Secures heavier, longer framing
Up to 12 feet	15 inches apart	Maximum support for large decks

Check Before You Build

- ○ Verify home's structural load requirements with a professional before attaching ledgers.
- ○ Check that all ledger fasteners maintain a 2-inch edge distance.
- ○ Consult your decking manufacturer for exact hidden fastener compatibility.
- ○ Ensure your spiral stair concrete footing reaches your local frost depth.

Material Checklist

- ☐ Z-flashing, structural lag screws, and silicone caulk.
- ☐ Solid 6x6 treated posts and angled wind braces.
- ☐ Triple 2x10 treated boards for the main beam.
- ☐ EPDM membrane or rigid troughs for drainage.
- ☐ PVC beadboard panels and wet-rated LED lights.
- ☐ Fascia-mounting brackets and stainless steel cables.
- ☐ Prefabricated metal spiral staircase kit and concrete mix.

Project Notes

Here is to building a beautiful outdoor space you will enjoy for years!