

ADVERTISING FEATURE

LAWN AND GARDEN

Take time planning your deck

It's easier to change something when it's in the planning stage, rather than trying to fix it when it's already built

Lansing Buildall answers some of your building questions.

Q: Spring is finally here and I'm ready to get started on my new deck. I'm pretty green at all this, so I was hoping you could help me get started. What do I do first?

A: It sounds to me that you are like a lot of other people out there who love the idea of building their own deck, but lack the knowledge and confidence to do the job.

The very first thing to do when considering a deck is to start planning.

Nothing knocks a project off course like poor planning.

The first planning step is taken with your boots on in your yard. Take a good look at the outside of your home and at your yard.

Try to envision the deck that best compliments your home. Remember, not every deck design works with every home. You may have to make a



Make sure your deck compliments your home.

few changes to ensure a perfect deck fit.

Here's something you may want to try.

Use stakes and string lines to outline your proposed deck area. Place your lounge chair, patio set, barbecue and other deck top items where you will want them on the completed deck.

Now try to envision the activities on and around your deck. Is the deck large enough or does it take up too much of your yard space?

It's a lot easier to revise your deck dimensions at this point, rather than when you've started to build it.

Make note of any trees you don't want disturbed; you may want to incorporate them into your deck.

Check your deck site at different times of day to

See DECKS, page 23.

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