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Summer is here: Deck or not?

The summer is here and most Canadians will be embracing the warm weather and the use of their barbeque for family get-togethers and parties. Therefore, a deck would be something that would be an ideal outdoor fixture to your home.

Here are some considerations when constructing a new deck:

1) Safety – This is a key component. Your family and friends will be sitting and walking on this deck so you want to make sure it is a safe environment for people to gather on.

2) Deck innovations – Decks traditionally have been built using wood, hammer and nail. Nowadays, aluminum, plastic and some composite materials are being used to create decks.

You may find it is more expensive in the short run to build your deck with these materials but wood decks need to be treated every year to protect it from the harsh winter weather.

3) Wood is a favourite – If you are a traditionalist who tends to favour wood for

the look, feel, and smell, make sure that you take good care of the wood. When it is treated, it can look as good as a black car after a car wash and a coat of wax.

However, it requires regular maintenance and stain can be flammable. Be careful not to apply too much if you plan on barbecuing on it.

4) Home value – When buyers look for a home, a deck may be a consideration for them in deciding whether to purchase this particular home. Some homebuyers can envision the summer parties and barbecues while looking through the home. That factor as well as the obvious investment into the home to build the deck can increase the market value of the home.

The decision to build a deck is thought-provoking and depends on a lot of factors: (e.g. finances, space to build a deck, ROI, etc.) Once you have determined you want a deck, make sure it is built to last for many years to come. Staining can be done easily but rebuilding the deck each year is cumbersome and costly at the same time. It is always a good idea to get seek opinions from professionals as well.

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