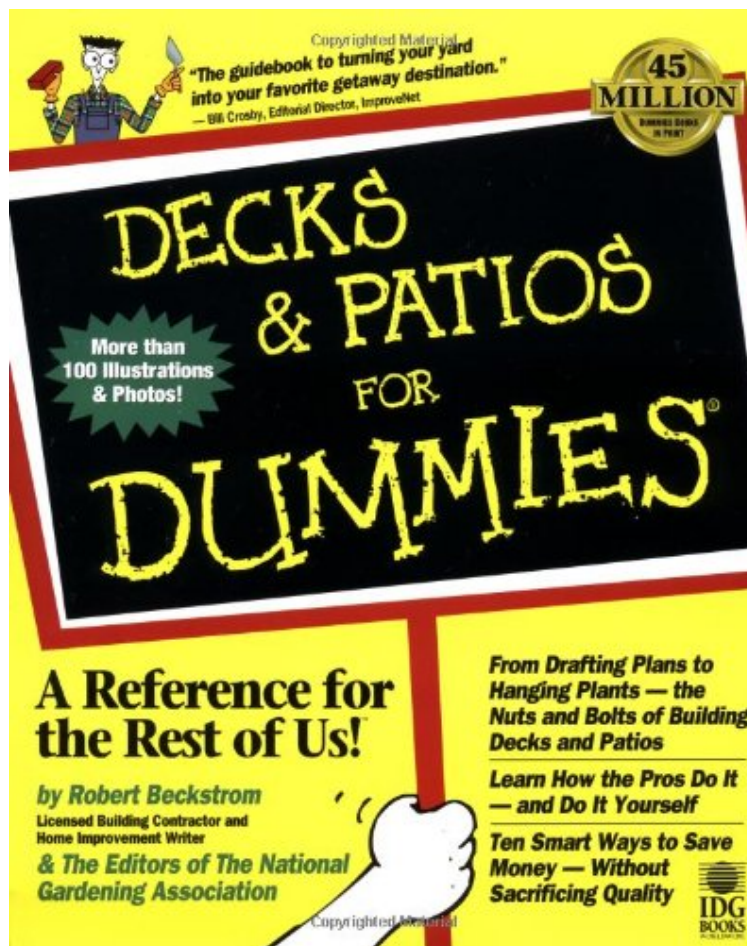


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Robert Beckstrom, The Editors of the National Gardening Association : Decks and Patios For Dummies (For Dummies (Computer/Tech)) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Decks and Patios For Dummies (For Dummies (Computer/Tech)):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good.By elainebrownPretty good. Did use some of the design recommendations.5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Clear, Thorough, Easy-to-Understand, Very-Well-OrganizedBy Danielle DeGraceThis is the fourth deck book I've purchased, and I am so glad I did. It is perfect for someone like me who needs to know everything about building a deck because I've no prior experience. The book is so thorough and discusses so many more things than my other books do. There aren't a lot of deck pictures, so if you're looking for a lot of pictures for ideas, this is probably not the book for you.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. great bookBy Mark Mitchellgreat book full of ideas

Life is just so much sweeter when experienced from a good deck or patio. Breezes, sunlight, the smells of the garden,

birdsongs just a few minutes in your own backyard can enliven the senses and rejuvenate the spirit. Meals become relaxed affairs. Food tastes better. Conversations are richer. Time eases its hectic demands and drifts by at a more congenial pace. Whether for a neighborhood barbeque or just a quiet afternoon with a paperback, decks and patios offer us the perfect space to kick back and let the good times roll. Decks and Patios for Dummies contains everything you need to know to design and build your dream deck or patio. Full of practical tips and clear, simple instructions, it shows the do-it-yourselfer how to solve problems in design and construction while avoiding pitfalls and unnecessary expenses. You'll find useful information on: Choosing the location Sizing Choosing materials Preparing the site Building Adding barbeques, fireplaces, etc. Maintenance This is a start-to-finish guide on all aspects of deck and patio construction including when you should seek help from the professionals! Designed to make the most of your budget, it walks you through: Dealing with contractors, codes, and feasibility The building checklist Lighting, outlets, faucets, and other add-ons Decks from frames to finishes Patios: concrete, flagstone, or brick? Steps, stairs, and benches Special details and decorations Whether your project is a patio just big enough for two chaises-lounges or a screened-in, wraparound deck on the side of a mountain, Decks and Patios for Dummies makes building understandable and fun with illustrations, diagrams, helpful sidebars, and a color insert of photos to stir the imagination. Take advantage of this comprehensive guide and build your dream deck today.

.com Beckstrom, a nationally known home-remodeling and improvement expert, has put together an A-to-Z book about pretty near everything one needs to know about planning and building decks and patios: the choices of materials, tools, finishes, and accessories like planters, decorative railings, and benches. Covering all construction techniques literally from the ground up--from foundations, supports, and basic structural guidelines all the way to final finishes and maintenance--this book offers information on everything the do-it-yourselfer could want to know. Throughout, the book is highlighted with special tips and shortcuts, cost-saving tips and tricks, warnings about pitfalls and common mistakes, and a special emphasis on "learning the lingo": explaining the terminology of tools, hardware, and materials, as well as common building words and expressions. At 356 pages and with hundreds of useful illustrations, color photographs, and a detailed index for easy reference, this is the book you need if you are fantasizing about or planning a deck or patio for your home. --Mark A. Hetts From the Back Cover "The guidebook to turning your yard into your favorite getaway destination." Bill Crosby, Editorial Director, ImproveNet "An outstanding reference for beginners and first-time homeowners." Boston Globe "A concise, well-put-together summary of everything do-it-yourselfers need to know to build their dream decks." Pamela Allsebrook, California Redwood Association 8 Pages of Colorful Photos to Motivate the Do-It-Yourselfer! Build a Great Deck or Patio Without Breaking Your Back or the Bank! Planning a backyard bash but have nowhere to put the barbecue? Let this fun-filled, practical guide help you design, build, and maintain the outdoor space of your dreams. Written with the do-it-yourself builder in mind, Decks Patios For Dummies brings you everything you need to know to do a top-notch job including tips on when to get help! Before you know it, you'll be flipping burgers out back. Time to Hit the Deck! Plan the functional and fun outdoor haven that works best for your space Find out about basic rules of design so you can create your own layout Choose your surface wood, concrete, brick, flagstone, or tiles Treat your deck with the right sealant for the surface you've selected Build a solid patio foundation that won't flood with the first rain Don't forget the amenities barbecues, benches, overheads, planters, and more About the Author About the Authors Robert Beckstrom, a licensed building contractor, has written and edited dozens of home improvement books and appeared on numerous talk shows as a home improvement expert. The National Gardening Association is recognized for its bimonthly National Gardening magazine and prolific work in science education for children. The association is also the coauthor of Lawn Care For Dummies, Gardening For Dummies, and other gardening titles in the For Dummies series.