

CUSTOM DECK PROGRAM - - OVERVIEW

with DANIEL C. SMITH, PE CONSULTING ENGINEERS

ALL DECKS - Every deck ordered from Daniel C. Smith, P.E. Consulting Engineers (DCSPE) includes liability insurance for the structural deck design.

DCSPE provides sealed engineered deck plans and structural details, plus an associated structural material takeoff for each deck ordered. Decks can be of any size and height, multiple levels, with stairs or ramps or flush with the existing grade. *Points to note:* New construction is best. Renovation of existing structures may be possible, but more difficult. Constructing a new deck first and then asking DCSPE to create plans matching the as-built is usually not possible. Decks must be free-standing if next to cantilevered house structure.

LEAD TIME - Plans are delivered with a 5 business-day turn-around time after notification of order received. DCSPE business days do not include weekends or holidays. NOTE - Missing or confusing information can cause extensions to this time-frame, but we do all we can to avoid delays.

ORDERING - Order a deck by faxing, scanning or emailing a Custom Deck Order Form and Sketch to DCSPE fax number 877-841-6050 or <decks@dansmithpe.com>. Be sure to include a daytime phone number so our accountant can call for your credit card payment by Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover. For fastest service, please submit *form, sketch, and payment within the same 48 hour period*.

PRICING – Engineering fee is priced based upon the decking and stair square footage. Multiple decks at the same property address can be in the same order. Orders with deck areas up to and including 250 sq ft are \$200.00, and above that the price is calculated at \$0.80 per square foot. Note: for installers associated with Lowe’s Home Improvement, installers can contact Lowe’s directly to inquire about the engineering fee reimbursement program.

EXTRAS – For an additional fee, DCSPE can help with some uncommon items required by some permit offices or HOA’s, such as raised/wet seal, site plan, elevation sketch, or special permit process. We invite you to learn about the permit requirements in your area in order to avoid project delays.

- **SHIPPING** - Decks installed in Delaware, New Jersey, and some parts of Florida require plans to be stamped with a raised seal. Some other regions require decks plans to be stamped with a “wet” original seal. In these areas, the deck plans are mailed by United States Postal Service and the \$10 shipping fee must be added to the order cost.
- **PRINTING & SHIPPING** - Decks in California and Hawaii have seismic conditions and special topography that often require site-specific framing details. Also many permit offices require plans on 18x24 or 24x36 sheets. In these areas, the deck plans are mailed by United States Postal Service and the price for printing & shipping (approx. \$45) is quoted by the engineer.
- **ELEVATION SKETCH** - DCSPE can provide an elevation sketch of the front and one side of the deck/ramp to show the height of structure off of grade and position of the footings in relation to existing structures. Price \$75 per deck.

- **PERGOLA** – DCSPE can design uncovered, open pergolas for the deck. The pergola is not designed to handle loads from roofing at some later date. Price \$50 per pergola.
- **SITE PLAN** - DCSPE cannot do site surveys, but can locate the deck and distances to property lines on a site plan if absolutely necessary and if given information about the existing structures and their locations on the property. Price \$60.
- **SPECIAL PERMIT PROCESS** - Some areas such as Chicago IL and New York City have an intensive special permit process. Some NJ municipalities require architect's seal. These services are not provided by DCSPE. Refer to your local permit office for instructions in your area.

NOTIFICATION - DCSPE will notify you by email within 1-2 business days when the complete Deck Order has been received with an expected delivery date, or when a partial order has been received with items needed to start work. Please make sure your inbox can receive new email. Kindly provide at least two contacts on the order form.

PHOTOS – It is often helpful to have a photo of the building site, especially for decks designed around existing structures such as, pools, walls, concrete stoops, etc. Send photos to DCSPE at decks@dansmithpe.com and include the state and homeowner's name in the subject line.

CANCELLATIONS - The engineering fee shall be considered non-refundable. We work quickly. Work has begun once "New Deck Order Received" email has been sent.

DELIVERY – Notification of completed plans are delivered by email with subject "Deck Sealed Plans" to the contacts on order form. Most sealed deck plans are sent as pdf attachment to print off as many copies as are needed. Emails for deck plans with raised or "wet" seals include an United States Postal Service tracking number.

TAKEOFF RESPONSIBILITY - When received, the installer must review the takeoff for final ordering accuracy. The installer is responsible for specifying finishing products and composite materials per the order agreement. DCSPE's focus is on the structural components and does not specify aesthetic materials, such as decking product, colors, railing design, fascia, lattice, etc., due to the great variety of options and differing product availability. DCSPE wants to provide the homeowner the greatest flexibility for the aesthetic finish. DCSPE is not liable for the accuracy of the takeoff.

MODIFICATION REQUEST – If the homeowner or installer needs to make changes to an ordered deck, please contact DCSPE for a revision quote. Changes are priced at \$75/hour, plus any needed shipping fee.

PERMIT ISSUES – If deck plans are denied by the local permit office, DCSPE will work with the installer and/or inspection agent to resolve any problems within the scope of work of the order. The installer can facilitate the process by faxing/emailing the written permit response to DCSPE for our review. Any needed changes to the plans due to written inspector permit issues are not considered a modification request.

COMMUNICATIONS - When contacting DCSPE, please give us 1) your state, 2) homeowner name, 3) your name, and 4) phone number.

Email: decks@dansmithpe.com Fax: 877-841-6050 Customer Service: 919-844-6050 x1