

Terms To Know

balcony: a raised platform that is connected to the side of a building and surrounded by a low wall or railing

brick: a small hard block of baked clay that is used as building material

building code: a set of standards established and enforced by the local government for the structural safety of buildings

courtyard: an open space that is surrounded completely or partly by a building or group of buildings

deck: a flat-floored, roofless area adjoining a house

DIY: do-it-yourself; a project that can be done by the homeowner without having to hire a contractor

floor joist: a strong, heavy board (usually 2x4") that supports a floor; a deck frame is made up of floor joists

interlocking pavers: tiles made from concrete, stone, or brick that fit together to cover a deck or patio; these tiles do not require the use of mortar or grout to install, making installation easy for the DIYer

natural stone: stone that is shaped and sized by nature rather than being quarried and cut to size

patio: a flat area of ground that is covered with hard material that is usually behind a house and used for sitting and relaxing; a recreation area that adjoins a dwelling, is often paved, and is adapted for outdoor dining

polymer: a chemical compound that is made of small molecules that are arranged in a simple repeating structure to form a larger molecule

polymeric sand: a granular material placed between the joints or seams of brick or stone patios, deck, walkways, etc. to improve the interlock, durability, and stability of a paved surface

porch: a covered area adjoining an entrance to a building and usually having a separate roof (i.e. front porch, back porch, screened-in porch, wrap-around porch)

slate: a type of hard rock that splits easily into thin layers; can be used as a durable deck or patio floor

subfloor: a rough floor that is laid as a base for a finished floor

subgrade: a surface of earth or rock that is leveled off to receive a foundation

Surebond 190: a versatile, high-strength, hard-setting, one-part sealant

tamp: to drive in or down by a succession of light or medium blows; to press down by hitting lightly

travertine: a light-colored type of mineral rock which is formed by deposition from hot spring water; can be used as a durable deck or patio flooring