

Maximize your outdoor space with an underdeck system



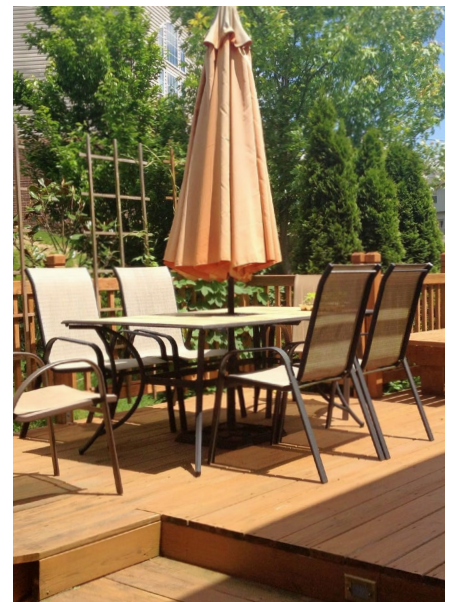


Introduction

When it comes to outdoor renovations, installing a deck is high on many homeowners' lists of projects. It makes sense — we all want an outdoor area where family and friends can gather to enjoy each other's company, especially on warm nights and sunny days.

Decks bring many obvious benefits to a home. A deck can add to the overall look of a property's exterior, they connect indoor spaces with the outdoors, and are a great way to utilize outdoor areas you might not otherwise use. The addition of a deck to your home can also be a smart financial move — a deck adds value to the resale price of a home and have a historically high recoup cost. Up to 80% of the build cost can be regained upon selling.

At CCL, it's safe to say that [we're all for decks](#). For homeowners considering adding a deck to their own home, there's another area that is often overlooked. The area directly below. The underdeck.





What is Underdecking?

As the name suggests the underdeck is the space created directly underneath a deck. For multi-storied homes, a deck can create a wonderful outdoor area but it can also leave you with the question of what to do with all that space beneath it. Many homeowners don't take advantage of developing their underdeck and the result can be somewhat of an eyesore.

We get it. The space underneath your deck traditionally doesn't get a lot of sunshine (thanks to that amazing deck you've got going on). They're not always watertight and concreted areas can attract dampness and mildew — hardly the ambience you want to create for sitting outdoors.

Exposed beams can feel unsightly while wind, rain, leaf litter and plant debris can leak through from above turning your underdeck area into a shady wasteland. If your deck is on the ground level, or slightly raised, it can be even trickier to figure out how to make this area look appealing.

The good news is, no matter the height of your deck, there's a watertight solution for the area underneath. Waterproofing opens up a variety of options for every type of homeowner. Whether you simply dream of installing a hammock that's usable all year round or want somewhere to hide the gardening equipment, there are many ways to get the most out of an underdeck renovation.



Begin with Weatherproofing

For a long time weatherproofing has been a major barrier to having a usable, not to mention, reliably dry area underneath a deck. Early underdeck systems would usually allow water to travel through the decking first, and then divert water away from the framing underneath. The problem with this approach to underdeck protection is that it wasn't always watertight.

Over the past few years, new materials such as waterproof decking and underdeck ceilings have revolutionized what can now be achieved. Modern waterproof systems now focus on stopping water from even entering through the deck.

Many underdeck systems are now designed so that individual panels can be removed without disturbing the adjacent panels. This means cleaning ceiling panels, or removing them to install lighting or ceiling attachments is a breeze.

There are now reliable materials that do double duty — providing aesthetically pleasing floorboards up top and a waterproof ceiling down below. Furthermore, many systems now use locking technology making panels or floorboards that are far easier to put together.

Done right underdecks can be a wonderful addition to your outdoor space and make clever use of an area that's currently serving no purpose. Whether you already have a deck and therefore an underdeck area, or are considering installing a deck, read on for our top tips for maximizing your underdeck area.

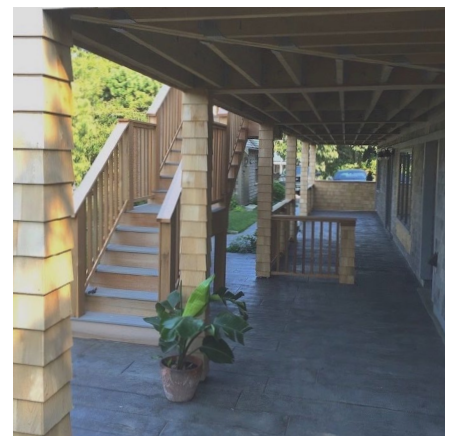


What are the advantages of renovating an underdeck area?

If you own a multi-story home with a deck, like it or not you already have an underdeck. If you're planning to install a deck onto your home, you'll also have a space below that, and if not well thought out, can quickly become unusable. For most homeowners, space is at a premium. It makes sense then that underdecks are becoming increasingly popular and many contractors are expecting this area of renovation to grow. An underdeck is an easy and cost-effective way to double your usable outdoor space.

For every reason your deck brings joy and functionality to your home, a practical area below works in much the same way but with different benefits. An underdeck:

- Makes fantastic use of space. Like we said your underdeck is there whether you like it or not. Maximize this area to your advantage!
- Gives your home a secondary outdoor option that can be used year round.
- Offers privacy and protection from both people and the elements.
- Can offer extra storage in an area that is dry and protected from the weather.



Whether you want a weatherproofed area that allows for extra storage, or an area that can be used for entertaining, there are many roles that this space can fulfil.



How customizable is this space?

Whether you choose to furnish your newly renovated space with outdoor lounges or are looking forward to finally having ample storage for outdoor equipment, be prepared to get a lot of use out of this area.

Common options for underdecks include converting them into storage areas, work sheds, outdoor entertainment areas, or closing or screening the sides of the underdeck to create an entirely closed-in space.

From trim and texture to beadboard or wood grain embossed finish, underdeck solutions are not short on options, allowing homeowners to continue the look and style of their home into their underdeck area. As a homeowner you can further customize this space with:

Outdoor Lighting

A popular option and a great way to get maximum use out of this space at all hours. Opting for [LED lighting](#) will extend how many hours you can enjoy your outdoor space.

Accessories

Television screens, lighting, fans, and speakers can turn your underdeck into an entertainment oasis.

Smart Storage

If your underdeck isn't tall enough to be used as an outdoor space you may choose to waterproof this area for storage instead.

Decorative Screenings

If you want [privacy](#), [outdoor accents](#) can be a great way to discreetly hide storage while still allowing light to pass through. Transparent porch screens are another great option that protect against wind, cold and rain and can be rolled up during milder weather.

A Plant Wall

Trellises don't just have to be used as a beautiful and economical screening option, they're also a great way to create green space along an outer wall of an underdeck.



How much should I expect to pay for an underdeck?

Waterproofing an underdeck area can cost roughly 25% of the price of a new deck. This is by and large one of the most motivating factors in developing the underdeck area. Homeowners gain twice as much space for a quarter of the cost when they install a deck that serves this dual purpose.

The great news is that existing decks can be easily converted to become weatherproof outdoor areas. No matter how you choose to accessorize your outdoor space, adding a functional and weather-tight outdoor area is going to reap rewards for both your living experience and the [resale value of your home](#).

What materials do I need to transform my underdeck area?

The three major components to make any underdeck project a success? Waterproofing, waterproofing, and waterproofing. An underdeck requires material for the trim, gutters, downspouts, ceiling panels, and support braces. Materials will vary depending on if your project involves updating an existing deck or building a waterproof deck from scratch.

We recommend the following waterproofing materials.

SPACEMAKER
OUTDOOR FLOORING

 **TimberTech**

DEXERDRY

Spacemaker Watertight Decking

If you are considering building a deck from scratch, why not choose the product that creates a watertight seal during installation. The Spacemaker watertight decking is engineered with a tongue and groove silicon seal that immediately seals during installation, creating a permanent and hassle free waterproof solution. The top surface of the decking is cap-coated for aesthetics and extreme durability, while the underside leaves you with a finished look that keeps you from staring up at the bottom of deck boards.

[Learn more about Spacemaker >](#)

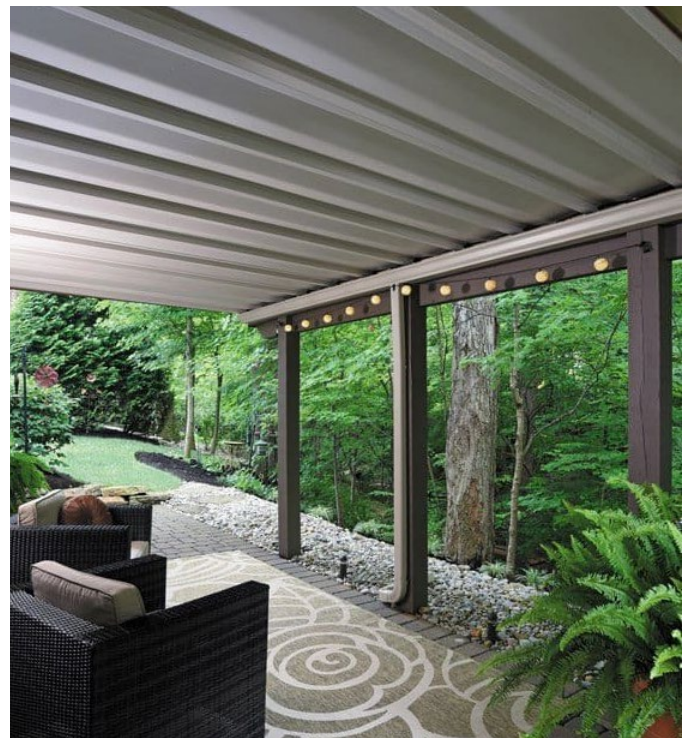




TimberTech Dryspace

Dryspace is a material best used for already existing decks. Designed with post-installation in mind, the key to Dryspace's success is in its ability to collect and channel moisture from the spaces between boards with a hidden under-deck drainage system. Available in two light shades — bone and white — this material gives any space a light, airy feeling to underdeck spaces.

[Learn more about TimberTech >](#)





Dexerdry

This above-floor joist flange gutter is placed between the deck boards to prevent water and the elements from penetrating the surface of the deck. In other words, Dexerdry provides virtual dry space under any outside deck.

[Learn more about Dexerdry >](#)



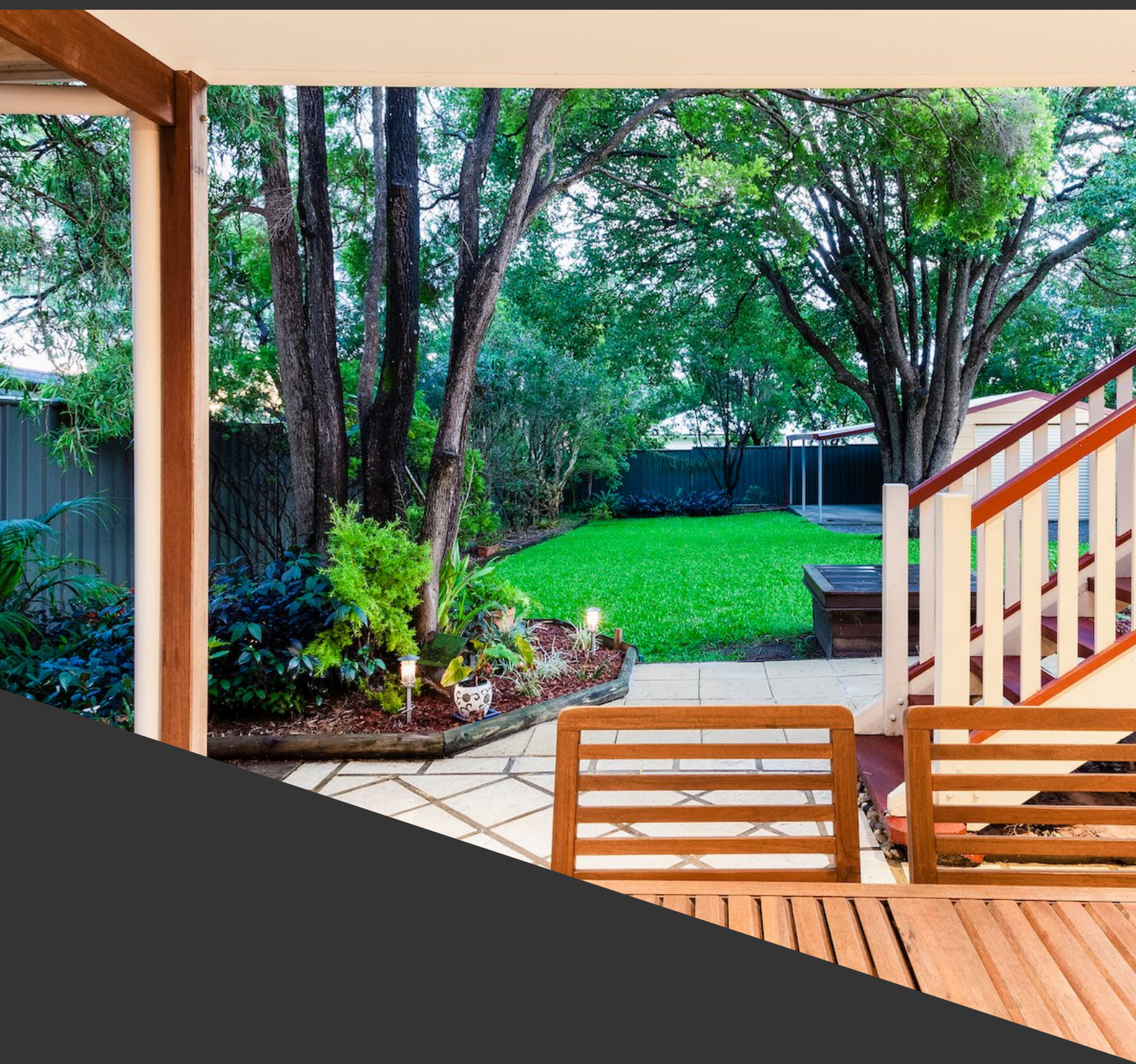


How to get the most out of an underdeck protection system installation:

At CCL, we can work with clients and contractors on choosing and installing the right materials for the job. Some key tips to keep in mind during the installation process:

- While some underdeck systems are simple to fit together, working with a contractor or underdecking expert will give you the best result and ensure that your underdeck protection system is installed correctly and free of debris.
- If you are updating an existing deck, we recommend working with underdeck ceiling systems that easily slot together so that any particular panel can be removed without disturbing other panels. This makes cleaning individual panels easier and allows for modifications to the ceiling panels in the future.
- When using an underdeck ceiling system pre-installation planning is needed to guarantee there is enough slope to direct water freely towards the guttering. A laser level should be used to determine the slope of the system needed. Do not assume the deck is level.
- Decks with beams will require guttering on both sides to allow ample water run off from all directions.

From providing additional storage to creating a versatile outdoor area that is usable year round, a renovated underdeck can bring value, functionality and maximize the outdoor space around your home. What's more water proofing this area comes at a fraction of the cost of other renovations and can be as elaborate or as minimal as you require. Whether your home already has an existing deck or you are laying the groundwork for your next project, get started with the team at CCL. We can talk to you about your plans, the right systems to waterproof your deck from the get-go, or post-installation solutions.



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