

Exterior Deck Stair Comparisons

Deck stairs are in most cases unpredictable because they are required to either end at an uneven ground line, landing or another deck level. This results in stair height variations which normally eliminate the use of pre-cut stringers. You are left with three main alternatives: multiple custom cut stringers to form a stair, stair angle construction or the EZ Stair® construction. These methods produce custom stairs appropriate for wood, composite or vinyl. EZ Stairs® is additionally appropriate for steel, aluminum and concrete stairs. For comparison, consider a stair 48" wide and 7 risers high.

ITEM	CONVENTIONAL CONSTRUCTION		EZ STAIRS CONSTRUCTION Closed risers and stair width up to 7' using only two outside stringers	
	ALL WOOD	COMPOSITE	ALL WOOD	COMPOSITE
Number of stringers	4	5	2	2
Number of cuts	48	60	6	6
Number of footings	4	5	2	2
Cost of footings	\$60.00	\$75.00	\$30.00	\$30.00
Total material cost	\$99.00	\$417.00	\$121.00	\$507.00
Cost of labor	\$144.00	\$180.00	\$60.00	\$144.00
Total stair cost	\$303.00	\$672.00	\$211.00	\$681.00
Cost per sq. foot	\$13.77	\$30.54	\$9.59 **	\$30.95 **
Strength	Up to 300 lbs. per sq. ft- Live Load		Up to 300 lbs. per sq. ft- Live Load	
Skill level	High skill level required	High skill level required	Short learning curve using semi skilled labor	Short learning curve using semi skilled labor
Squeaks	Yes	Yes	Eliminated	Eliminated
Exceeds code requirements for rail port support	No *	No *	Yes	Yes

Please note: * Conventional and stair angle construction have been tested to exceed code requirements when EZ Stair brackets are used to reinforce post connections.

** Cost per sq. foot for EZ Stair decreases for wide stairs. Example: All wood 7' wide: \$6.42/sq. ft. and composite: 7' wide: \$21.24/ sq. ft.

Labor cost based at \$36.00 per hour including taxes and benefits.

EZ Stairs® is faster, stronger and more cost efficient. The patented self adjusting brackets make the stair building process easy. The brackets are approved as joist hangers, allowing the risers to carry the load across the stair. This eliminates the need of center stringers for stairs up to 7'wide in stair construction.