

# Homeowner's Guide to Deck Repair in Snohomish & King County

A homeowner checklist for Deck Repairs

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## Deck Surface Check

- Walk the entire deck, feeling for bouncy or spongy areas.
- Look for any boards that are cracked, splintered, or warped.
- Inspect for popped nails or screw heads.
- Check for dark, discolored wood, which indicates trapped moisture.
- Gently probe any suspicious spots with a screwdriver; if it sinks in, it's rot.
- Photograph any problem boards or areas for reference.

## Railing & Stairs Safety

- Firmly shake each railing post. There should be little to no movement.
- Grab the handrail and push on it. Note any wobble or looseness.
- Inspect all balusters (vertical pickets) to ensure they are secure.
- Run your hand along the top rail to check for splinters.
- Walk up and down the stairs purposefully, checking for movement or sagging.
- Examine where the stair stringers connect to the deck and the ground.

## Understructure & Foundation

- Visually scan all joists (the beams under the decking) for sagging or rot.
- Examine all support posts, especially the bottom 6 inches where they meet the ground.
- Probe the base of each post with a screwdriver to test for rot.
- Check the ledger board where the deck attaches to the house.
- Look for any gaps between the ledger board and the house siding.
- Ensure metal flashing is present and directing water away from the house.
- Photograph any rust on metal hangers, widespread rot, or concerning connections.

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