

HOME & GARDEN

Decks

Continued from Page A6

“Trex is more expensive, but it cuts down on maintenance,” Averett said, adding that he chose Trex for the deck at his home in Canyon City.

An option to a deck is a ground-level patio made from paver blocks. Again, the first step is to design the layout. Homeowners should check local building codes and covenants before starting and check for underground utilities before digging.

A typical patio installation has several layers, including a 6-inch gravel base, a 1-inch layer of sand, paver blocks and polymeric/jointing sand to fill the gaps between pavers.

“Patios are more labor intensive,” Averett said. “But when they’re finished, you have another great outdoor living area. It also cuts down on weeding and adds to the appearance of the property.”

As with any construction, stakes, strings, levels and batter boards can be used to ensure the layout is square and level. Patios should slope gently away from a house for drainage purposes — about 1 inch per 4 feet.

If landscape lighting or other utilities are part of the patio design, they need to be installed per code after sod is removed and before gravel and sand base layers are placed.



Red retaining wall block can add color and texture to an outdoor deck project.

A power compactor can be rented or a hand tamper can be used for small areas. A layer of landscape fabric should be placed beneath the base layers to block weed growth. Pavers and retaining wall blocks can be cut using a special concrete blade on a circular saw, but eye and ear protection is advised.

Patios and decks can be dressed up with adjoining landscaping or garden beds, bird feeders and fountains, innovative lighting and decorative railings. Then set up a grill, a dining table and outdoor furniture and invite over the neighbors or family to inaugurate the new addition.



Electric and pneumatic power tools for deck construction at the Grant County Building Supply in Canyon City.



A knotty pine panel door adds a rustic finish to an outdoor deck project.



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