

Creating Deck Post Footings

Reference Number: **KB-00353**

Last Modified: **November 29, 2021**

The information in this article applies to:



QUESTION

How do I generate deck post footings in my design?



ANSWER


Prior to creating a deck, it's recommended that a terrain perimeter is created. Once a terrain perimeter has been created, the first floor footprint and deck can be drawn, a foundation floor level can be added, and deck framing and post footings can be generated.


To create the terrain, first floor, and deck

1. Starting with a **New Plan** , select **Terrain> Create Terrain Perimeter** .

Note: If the option for Create Terrain Perimeter is grayed out, then you already have a terrain perimeter in the drawing. If this is the case, you can skip this step.

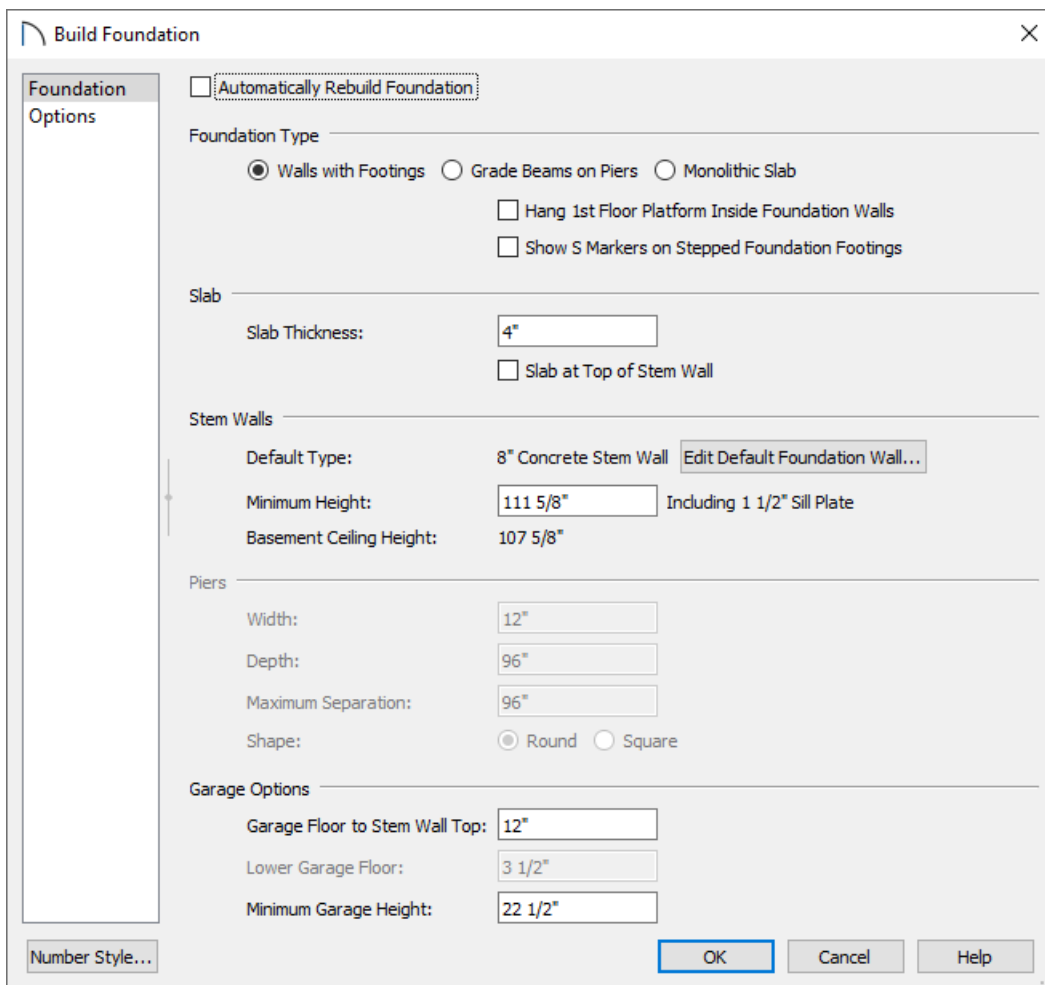
2. Once the terrain perimeter has been created, you can draw a first floor, then draw a deck.

For the purposes of this tutorial, we will navigate to **Build> Wall> Exterior Wall** , then draw four walls in a clockwise fashion to make a completely enclosed room.

3. Once an enclosed square room is created, select **Build> Railing and Deck> Straight Deck Railing** , then draw a completely enclosed deck off of the square room.

To create the foundation

1. Select **Build> Floor> Build Foundation**  to open the **Build Foundation** dialog.



Build Foundation

Automatically Rebuild Foundation

Foundation Type

Walls with Footings Grade Beams on Piers Monolithic Slab

Hang 1st Floor Platform Inside Foundation Walls

Show S Markers on Stepped Foundation Footings

Slab

Slab Thickness:

Slab at Top of Stem Wall

Stem Walls

Default Type: 8" Concrete Stem Wall [Edit Default Foundation Wall...](#)

Minimum Height: Including 1 1/2" Sill Plate

Basement Ceiling Height:

Piers

Width:

Depth:

Maximum Separation:

Shape: Round Square

Garage Options

Garage Floor to Stem Wall Top:




Lower Garage Floor:

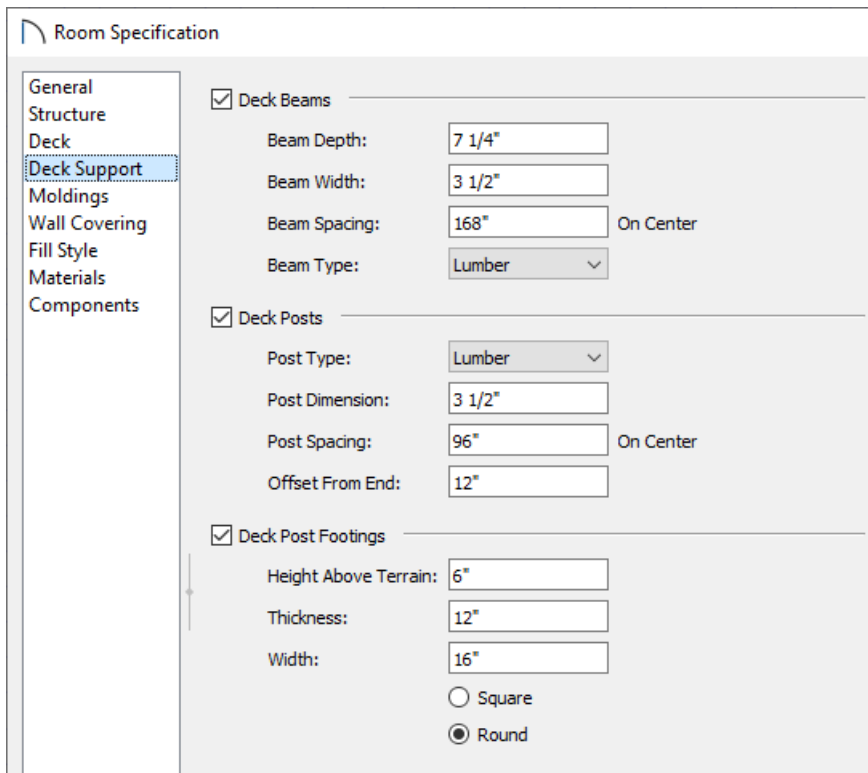
Minimum Garage Height:

Number Style...


2. Click the **OK** button to accept the foundation defaults.

To build deck framing and post footings

1. Return to the first floor by clicking **Up One Floor** , then click on the **Select Objects**  tool.
2. Click one time in the middle of the deck room to select it, then click the **Open Object**  edit tool.
3. On the **DECK** panel of the **Room Specification** dialog that displays, ensure that the **Automatically regenerate deck framing box** is checked.
4. On the **DECK SUPPORT** panel:



The screenshot shows the 'Room Specification' dialog box with the 'Deck Support' panel selected. The 'Deck Beams' section is checked and includes fields for Beam Depth (7 1/4"), Beam Width (3 1/2"), Beam Spacing (168" On Center), and Beam Type (Lumber). The 'Deck Posts' section is also checked and includes fields for Post Type (Lumber), Post Dimension (3 1/2"), Post Spacing (96" On Center), and Offset From End (12"). The 'Deck Post Footings' section is checked and includes fields for Height Above Terrain (6"), Thickness (12"), Width (16"), and radio buttons for Square and Round (selected).

- For post footings to be created, deck posts have to be created. Ensure that the **Deck Posts** box is checked and your desired settings are specified.
 - Check the **Deck Post Footings** box if it's not checked.
 - Specify the **Height Above Terrain, Thickness, Width**, and shape of the footings.
5. Once all desired changes have been made, click **OK**.
 6. Finally, **3D> Create Perspective View> Perspective Full Overview**  to create an overview of your entire structure.



© 2003–2021 Chief Architect, Inc. All rights reserved // [Terms of Use \(https://www.chiefarchitect.com/company/terms.html\)](https://www.chiefarchitect.com/company/terms.html) // [Privacy Policy \(https://www.chiefarchitect.com/company/privacy.html\)](https://www.chiefarchitect.com/company/privacy.html)