

Creating Deck Post Footings

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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.

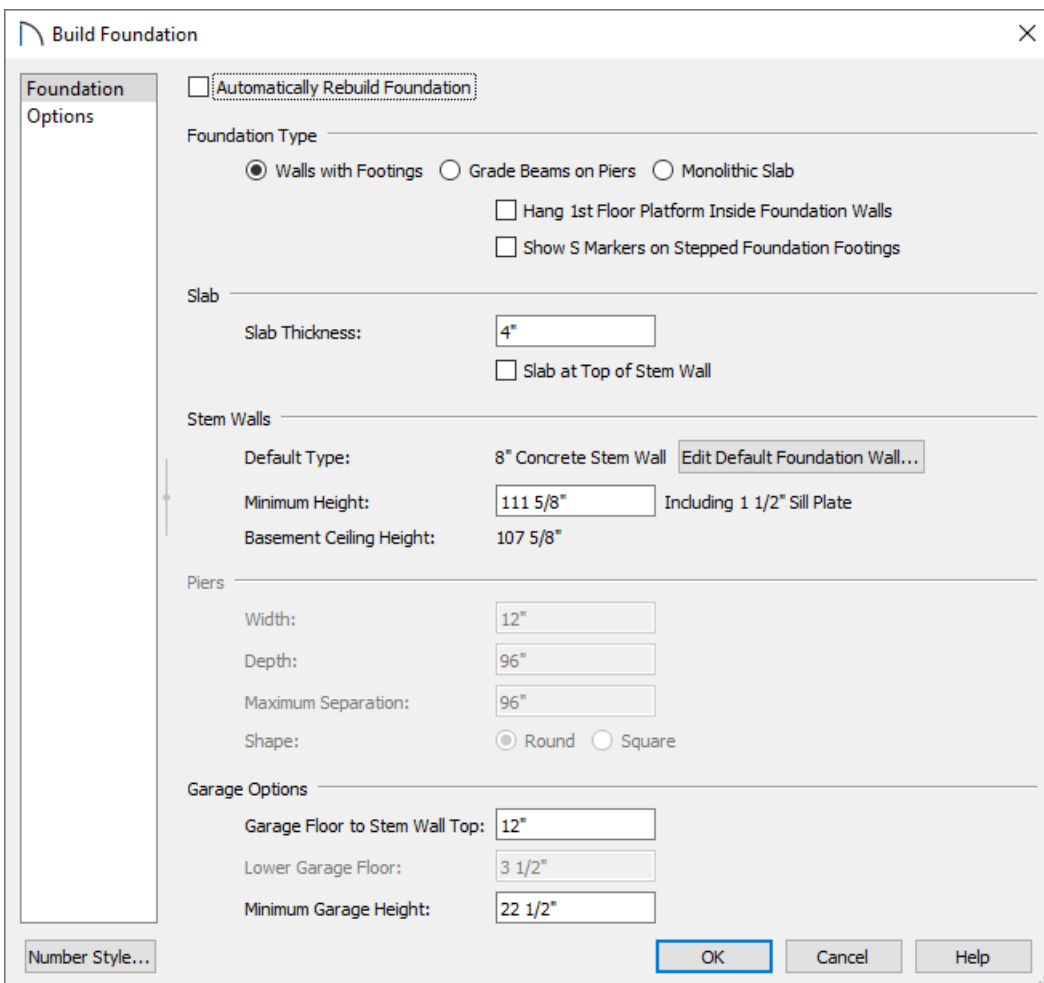
2. Once the terrain perimeter has been created, you can draw a first floor, then draw a deck.

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.






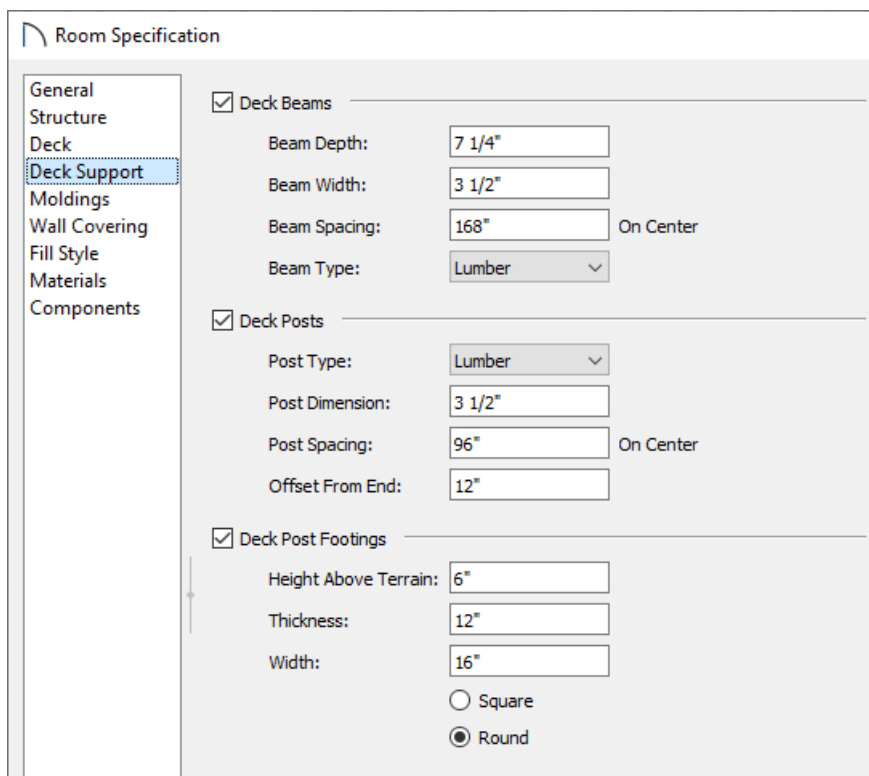
The **Build Foundation** dialog box is shown with the following settings:

- Foundation Options:**
 - ☐ 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: 4"
 - ☐ Slab at Top of Stem Wall
 - Stem Walls:**
 - Default Type: 8" Concrete Stem Wall (Edit Default Foundation Wall...)
 - Minimum Height: 111 5/8" (Including 1 1/2" Sill Plate)
 - Basement Ceiling Height: 107 5/8"
 - Piers:**
 - Width: 12"
 - Depth: 96"
 - Maximum Separation: 96"
 - Shape: ☒ Round ☐ Square
 - Garage Options:**
 - Garage Floor to Stem Wall Top: 12"
 - Lower Garage Floor: 3 1/2"
 - Minimum Garage Height: 22 1/2"
- Buttons:** Number Style..., OK, Cancel, Help

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 in the left sidebar. The panel contains three sections: 'Deck Beams', 'Deck Posts', and 'Deck Post Footings'. Each section has a checked checkbox and several input fields for specifying dimensions and materials.

| Section | Property | Value | Unit/Notes |
|--------------------|----------------------|--------|------------|
| Deck Beams | Beam Depth | 7 1/4" | |
| | Beam Width | 3 1/2" | |
| | Beam Spacing | 168" | On Center |
| | Beam Type | Lumber | |
| Deck Posts | Post Type | Lumber | |
| | Post Dimension | 3 1/2" | |
| | Post Spacing | 96" | On Center |
| | Offset From End | 12" | |
| Deck Post Footings | Height Above Terrain | 6" | |
| | Thickness | 12" | |
| | Width | 16" | |
| | Shape | Round | |
| | | Square | |

- 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.



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