

THIS SPREADSHEET CALCULATES YOUR OPPORTUNITY COST OF STAINING YOUR OWN DECK

Enter the area of your deck and the length of your handrails, and the spreadsheet will calculate your stain costs, the time required, and what your minimum salary should be

Opaque means you are using Cabot solid stain. SPF means you are using Cabot stain which is transparent with a tint, which requires 2 coats.

This simplistic analysis assumes, of course, that you are able to stain as high a quality as we can (not so likely).

[Click here to open spreadsheet to enter your own data](#)

col # calc

INPUT

1	area of deck surface ft2	ft2	800
2	handrails ft	ft	80

CALCULATIONS

Key Assumptions

				OPAQUE			SPF			
				factors	hr, gal	\$	factors	hr, gal	\$	
3	Time for you to research stains, sources, and methods	hr			5			5		read consumer reports, talk to people.
4	Hire pressure-washer, pickup and return	hr			3			3		pickup and return washer, or go buy talk to partner about stain drive to town to pickup stain & brushes
5	Select color and type of stain and order stain	hr			1			1		
6	Pick-up stain and staining materials	hr			1.5			1.5		
7	pressure wash time for deck surface hr/ft2	hr/ft2		0.01			0.01			assume 7 hours for 800 ft2 opaque assume 1.5 times more for SPF stain 15 mins for 6 ft rail, 23 ins for SPF
8 =1 x 7	pressure-washing time for deck surface	hr			7			10.5		
9	pressure wash time for handrails hr/ft	hr/ft		0.05			0.08			
10 =2 x 9	pressure-washing time for handrails hr	hr			4			6		
11	spray, scrub with fungicide for deck surface	hr/ft2		0.00			0.00			assume 45 mins for 800ft2 deck
12 =1 x 11	spray, scrub with fungicide for deck surface	hr			0.75			0		
13	spray, scrub with fungicide for handrails	hr/ft		0.01			0.01			assume 45 mins for 80ft of rail
14 =2 x 13	spray, scrub with fungicide for handrails	hr			0.75			0.75		
15	prep for staining of deck surface	hr/ft2		0.00			0.00			assume 0.5 hr for 800ft2 deck
16 =1 x 15	prep for staining of deck surface	hr			0.5			0.5		
17	set-up drop cloths and shielding for handrails	hr/ft		0.02			0.02			assume 1.5 hr for 80 ft handrail
18 =2 x 17	set-up drop cloths and shielding for handrails	hr			1.5			1.5		
19	staining time for deck surface hr/ft2	hr/ft2		0.01			0.02			assume 6 hr for 800 ft2 opaque deck assume twice as long for SPF (2 coats) assume 1.5hrs for 6 ft opaque rail assume twice as long for SPF (2 coats)
20 =1 x 19	staining time for deck surface hr/ft2	hr			6			12		
21	staining time for handrails	hr/ft		0.25			0.50			
22 =2 x 21	staining time for handrails	hr			20			40		

			OPAQUE			SPF			
			factors	hr, gal	\$	factors	hr, gal	\$	
23	Clean-up brushes, drop cloths, dispose of stain cans	hr/ft2	0.00			0.00			assume 1 hour clean-up for 800ft deck
24 =1 x 23	Clean-up brushes, drop cloths, dispose of stain cans	hr		1			1		
25	Total hours	hr		52			83		
26 =25 / 8	Total days for you to do job	days		7			10		assumes 8 hours a day
MATERIAL COSTS & EXPENSES									
27	Hire of pressure-washer (or equivalent)	\$/ft2	0.09			0.09			assume \$70 for a day's work
28 =1 x 27	Hire of pressure-washer (or equivalent)	\$			\$70			\$70	
29	Cabot stain for deck surface	gals/ft2	150.00			150.00			
30 =1 / 29	Cabot stain for deck surface	gals		5.3			5.3		
31	Cabot stain for handrails	gals/ft	37.50			37.50			area of rails=4ft x length
32 =2 / 31	Cabot stain for handrails	gals		2.1			2.1		
33	Total Cabot stain required (rounded up)	gals		8			8		
34	Cost of Cabot stain	\$/gal	38.00			38.00			after tax, Kings Paint & Paper
35 =35 / 34	Cost of Cabot stain	\$			\$304			\$304	
36	Other materials (drop cloths, brushes, chemicals)	\$/ft2	0.19			0.19			assume \$150 for 800 ft2 deck
37 =1 x 36	Other materials (drop cloths, brushes, chemicals)	\$			\$150			\$150	
38	Total material costs & expenses				\$524			\$524	
YOUR OPPORTUNITY COST									
39	Price charged by 353DECK.com	\$			\$1,800			\$2,520	
40 =39 - 38	Your labor equivalent cost= 353DECK.com price-costs	\$			\$1,276			\$1,996	
41 =40 / 26	Opportunity cost per day (ie. divide by # of days)	\$/day			\$196			\$193	
42	Vacation day value factor				1.5			1.5	prefer staining to golf or family time?
43 =41 / 42	Real value to you per day of not staining.	\$/day			\$131			\$129	
YOU WOULD BE NUTS NOT TO OUTSOURCE TO US IF YOUR SALARY IS MORE THAN ABOUT \$40k.									
44	Marginal Tax rate	%			35%			35%	
45 =43 * 44	Before tax your day's value would be	\$/day			\$177			\$174	assume 35% marginal tax rate
46	Number of days you are paid for each year	days			240			240	
47	Outsource if your Annual Gross Salary exceeds:	\$/yr			\$42,402			\$41,681	