

LEWIS COUNTY CHAPTER OF OLYMPIA MASTER BUILDERS



Design the Perfect Porch for Your Home



If you enjoy spending time outside, you're not alone. Outdoor living spaces are a popular design trend in new home construction and remodeling. Whether you're remodeling to make your home better suited to your family's current lifestyle or to spruce it up to be more appealing to potential buyers, adding a front porch can be a great option.

A recent survey of new and prospective home buyers from the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) revealed that a majority of buyers (81%) want a front porch or a rear porch (75%). Spending time outdoors is a treasured past time. According to the National Recreation and Park Association, more than half of all adults (58%) spend more than 30 minutes outside a day. Spending time outside with exposure to green spaces has also been shown to improve

mental and physical health.

If you're thinking about adding a new front porch to your home, here are some things to consider, whether you plan to construct it yourself or hire an experienced contractor.

Size

A porch is an accessory, so it shouldn't overwhelm the house's main structure. Think of your porch as an extension of your home, a space that seamlessly blends with the rest of your property. If you don't consider size, it may look like a poorly designed afterthought.

Experts also recommend thinking about how you envision using your porch. Do you plan to dine al fresco with your family during mild or warm weather months? If so, you'll want a porch at least eight to 10

feet deep to accommodate a table and chairs. Homeowners who regularly want to sit outside and enjoy the fresh air should consider a porch that is about six feet or so to accommodate a small love-seat or a couple of chairs.

Location

You will also have to determine which side of the home you'll add your porch to. For example, a south-facing porch will take advantage of the sun's heat but could also get uncomfortable in the summer. The location of your porch also depends on how you want to enjoy your space. If you picture yourself spending the evening unwinding on your porch to watch the sunset, place your porch facing west. Early risers who enjoy reading the newspaper and drinking coffee may want to use maximum light with

eastern exposure.

Remember to be intentional with the access point of the porch from your home, as the design may have an impact on the interior rooms. For example, you may want to install French or sliding glass doors from the living room or kitchen to create an entrance to the porch.

Features

If possible, consider using the same materials on your porch as those on the exterior of your home. This continuity will not only enhance the aesthetic appeal of your outdoor space but also create a sense of unity in your property. Another way to create a harmonious porch is to coordinate the millwork and other design elements, ensuring they integrate smoothly with the rest of your home.

When designing your porch, it's crucial to consider practical factors such as climate and comfort. If you live in an area with a high insect population, installing screens can help you enjoy your porch without any unwanted guests. If you plan to use your porch in the evenings, adding lighting options or outlets for lamps to your feature list can create a cozy atmosphere. And for those hot summer days, a ceiling fan can keep the porch area cool and comfortable.

A porch can help you and your family relax during the summer season, and it will be an attractive feature to offer potential buyers if you sell your home in the future. For more information on home additions or to find a home builder or remodeler in Lewis County, visit our online searchable directory at omb.org.



IBS Scholarship Applications Close July 12

NAHB Members ages 21 – 35 have until July 12 to submit a scholarship application for an opportunity to experience professional development, networking, innovative products and new trends at the 2025 NAHB International Builders' Show®

(IBS). Selected recipients receive a travel stipend, hotel accommodations and an IBS Registration (IBS Expo+Education Pass).

Apply today <https://www.buildersshow.com/builders-show-scholarship-program>

I-2066 Success!

For the last 50 days, members of the building industry, hospitality industry, restaurants, Let's Go Washington, and more have been working diligently to gather enough signatures to get I-2066 on the November ballot. The goal set for enough signatures to comfortably qualify for the ballot was just over 400k signatures. Well, you all crushed it! The final tally landed the movement in record setting territory

for initiatives in the State of Washington. At just over 546,000 signatures, I-2066 is now the second most signatures ever collected for a ballot initiative in the state of Washington. This is amazing news, but the work is not finished.

We are confident that we will soon receive word that the initiative has qualified for the November ballot. Then, the rest of the work is on you. We

need our members to spread the word to their family, friends, and maybe even some folks you don't know, and tell them to vote YES on I-2066 on the November ballot to Protect Energy Choice!

For more information, please contact Jessie Simmons, Government Affairs Director at Olympia Master Builders, at ga@omb.org or (360)754-0912 (ext. 102).

Lewis County Industry Advocacy

Participate in the County's 2025 Budget-planning Process

Many jurisdictions are opening their public input period for their 2025 budget. While it is essential to remain abreast of all the upcoming policy and regulatory changes, Olympia Master Builders also implores you to be aware of the budget process and the funding that drives implementation of these policies. You could be the voice that keeps Lewis County friendly to business and future growth.

The Lewis County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is seeking Lewis

County residents interested in participating in the county's 2025 budget-setting process. The BOCC is seeking volunteers from each commissioner district to attend budget meetings in October and November and to provide feedback to the commissioners.

For the application and a sample letter of interest go to: <https://lewiscountywa.gov/offices/commissioners/bocc-news/participate-in-the-countys-2025-budget-planning-process/>

Residents interested in participating in the budget process are requested to submit an application and a letter of interest to Rieva Lester, Clerk

of the Board, in one of the following three ways:

- By mail at 351 N.W. North St., Chehalis, WA 98532.
- Via email at committees@lewiscountywa.gov — (please include "Budget" in the subject line).
- In person at the Commissioners' Office on the second floor of the historic courthouse, 351 N.W. North Street. Applications are due by 3 p.m. Thursday, July 18, 2024.

For more information, please contact Jessie Simmons, Government Affairs Director at Olympia Master Builders, at ga@omb.org or (360)754-0912 (ext. 102).



Title Guaranty Company
of Lewis County
TITLE INSURANCE • ESCROW

Proud Sponsor of **HS HERO**

TITLE GUARANTY
200 NW PACIFIC

"Growing Lewis County one family at a time!"
www.titlegco.com • 360-748-0001
200 NW Pacific Ave., Chehalis
Mailing: P.O. Box 1304, Chehalis