

LIVE ELEVATED
WOODWORKING

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The Porch Bed Swing Buyer's Guide

Everything to think through before you buy — sizing, frame material, hanging method, cushions, and a checklist to keep you on track.

A porch bed swing turns an ordinary porch, patio, or pergola into a relaxing outdoor retreat. Unlike a standard porch swing, a bed swing is wide and flat enough to lie down on, making it a popular choice for daytime naps, reading, or simply enjoying the outdoors. This guide walks through the key factors to consider before buying one.

27–41"

WIDTH RANGE

400–800 lbs

WEIGHT CAPACITY

2–3 ft

CLEARANCE NEEDED

01

Size and capacity

Bed swings are most commonly sold in two sizes, with crib and twin options giving buyers room to truly settle in regardless of porch size:

- **Crib size** (approx. 27"–30" wide, ~52" long): A compact option that fits smaller porches or tighter mounting spans. Comfortable for two adults and a curled-up pet, and easier to hang in spaces with limited ceiling width.
- **Twin size** (approx. 39"–41" wide, ~75" long): The most popular size for a true "bed" feel — enough room to stretch out fully, sit cross-legged, or fit three people sitting upright. Needs a wider structural mounting span or larger stand footprint.

Other sizing factors

- **Weight capacity:** Check the manufacturer's stated limit — many range from 400 to 800 lbs. Factor in how many people (or pets) will use it at once.
- **Clearance:** Bed swings need side-to-side and front-to-back swing clearance (typically 2–3 feet on each side) so they don't bump into railings, walls, or furniture.

Frame material

Character hardwood

OAK, MAPLE, WALNUT, CHERRY

- ⊕ Durability, unique grain, real wood weight and warmth
- ⊖ Pricier due to limited availability

Standard wood

CEDAR, PINE, ACACIA

- ⊕ Widely available, easier to match/replace
- ⊖ Less durability, less unique grain characteristics

Powder-coated steel

METAL FRAME

- ⊕ Very durable
- ⊖ Less cozy look

Synthetic wicker

WOVEN RESIN

- ⊕ Lightweight, weather-resistant
- ⊖ Lower weight capacity

Hanging method

- **Ceiling/beam mount:** Requires a structurally rated porch ceiling or pergola beam and heavy-duty hardware (eye bolts, chain, rope, swing hangers rated for the weight). Best if you already have a covered porch.*
- **A-frame or freestanding stand:** No structural mounting needed — good for patios, decks, or yards without a porch. Takes up more floor footprint and needs a level surface.
- **Rope:** Softer aesthetic, blends with wood tones, comfortable to touch, common on farmhouse-style builds.
- **Chain:** More durable and typically higher weight rating, but a more "industrial" look.

* For ceiling/beam mounts, the mounting point should be anchored into a joist or beam — not just thin decking — and ideally installed or verified by someone experienced with load-bearing fixtures.

04

Cushions and weather resistance

- Look for **outdoor-rated fabric** (solution-dyed acrylic like Sunbrella, or polyester with a water-resistant coating) that resists fading and mildew.
- **Quick-dry foam** inserts drain water rather than absorbing it — important if the swing isn't fully covered.
- Removable, machine-washable cushion covers make maintenance much easier.

05

Style and design

- Wood is the traditional choice with unlimited variations in design.
- Steel provides a more modern look with limited variations.
- Synthetic wicker provides a casual, resort-style appearance.

06

Maintenance tips

- Cover or store cushions during heavy rain or winter if not fully protected.
- Reseal or restain wood frames annually (or per manufacturer recommendation).
- Check chains, hooks, and mounting hardware periodically for rust or wear.
- Wipe down synthetic wicker with mild soap and water to prevent buildup.

Buying checklist

- ☐ Measure available hanging/floor space
- ☐ Determine frame material
- ☐ Confirm weight capacity fits intended use
- ☐ Decide ceiling mount or freestanding
- ☐ Verify cushions are outdoor-rated
- ☐ Determine needed hardware
- ☐ Set budget range

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Ready to bring one home?

Every Live Elevated swing is hand-built from Ambrosia Maple in Denver, NC, in crib or twin size, with your choice of finish and hanging kit.

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