



DECKS GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. DEFINITIONS

- a. Deck: Any structure which serves as a raised horizontal platform on floor constructed of wood or other materials, without enclosing walls or roof.
- b. Attached Deck: Any deck which is physically connected to the principal building or accessory structure.
- c. Detached Deck: Any deck which is not physically attached to the principal building or accessory structure.

2. SOIL AND EXCAVATION REQUIREMENTS FOR DECK PIERS OR FOUNDATIONS

- a. No pier shall be placed on soil with a bearing capacity of less than 2,000 lbs. per square foot unless the pad support is designed through structural analysis.
- b. All organic material (roots, etc.) shall be cut off at the sidewalls of the borings or trench. All organic and loose material must be removed from the cavity area prior to pouring concrete.

3. DECKS PIERS, PADS AND FOUNDATIONS

- a. General footings, pads or piers shall be of adequate bearing area to safely distribute all live and dead loads to the supporting soil without exceeding the bearing capacity of the soil.
- b. Type and size of concrete pads, piers or foundations.
 1. Decks attached to principal buildings.
 - a. Concrete Pads - The minimum depth of a pad shall be 48" below grade. The minimum dimensions of this pad shall be 4" in depth and 8" in diameter.
 - b. Piers - The minimum depth of concrete piers shall be 48" below grade. The minimum dimension of this pier shall be 8" in diameter. (The concrete pier(s) shall extend a minimum of 6" above grade unless an approved mounting bracket is secured at the top surface of the pier(s)).
 - c. Direct burial wood posts shall be placed on a minimum 2" nominal thickness treated plate or other approved materials at a uniform depth below grade. Posts shall be treated to the requirements of the American Wood Preserver's Association (AWPA) standards C2 and C15. for direct soil contact 4" below grade. Post shall be a minimum of 4' below established grade.

4. FRAMING

- a. General Requirements.
 1. Materials. All wood framing used in deck construction shall be pressure treated against decay or shall be a species of wood that is naturally decay resistant or shall be protected from weather.
 2. Design loading. Decks shall be designed for a minimum of 40 pounds per square foot loading live load & 10 pounds per square foot dead load.



3. See fastener schedule for nailing requirements.
- b. Column Posts.
1. Column spacing. Column posts shall be spaced per “Table No. 2”.
 - i. Column size.
 1. All column posts not exceeding six feet (6 feet) in height shall be a minimum of four inches by four inches (4 X 4) nominal thickness.
 2. All column posts exceeding six (6) feet in height shall be a minimum of six inches by six inches (6 X 6) nominal thickness.
 3. Lateral support. Column posts shall be constructed in such a manner or mechanically attached to the deck foundation to resist lateral movement.
- c. BEAMS
1. Beam Size – All beams shall be sized per “Table No. 2”.
 - a. Beams, except as otherwise noted in “Table No.2”, SHALL BE A MINIMUM OF TWO (2), TWO (2) INCH THICK MEMBER OR ONE (1), FOUR (4) INCH THICK MEMBER. (I.E., 2 - 2X8 OR 1 - 4X8).
 - b. Beams may be spaced on each side of the post provided that blocking is installed a minimum of twenty four (24) inches.
 2. Bearing. Beams bearing directly on the posts shall be attached by means of approved metal anchors or other approved methods.
 3. Ledger boards. Ledger boards attached directly to the house or other structure may be used to replace a beam or beams. A single member of equal depth to the required size beam shall be used. The ledger board shall be attached with bolts, lag bolts or nails, spaced no less than 16 inches on center, secured directly into the building structure. Flashing shall be installed between the ledger and building structure.
 4. Beams shall not be cantilevered more than twelve (12) inches past the column post.
- d. JOISTS
1. Joist size. All deck joists shall be sized and spaced per “Table No. 2”.
 2. Bearing. Deck joists shall bear a minimum of one and one half (1-1/2) inches on the beam or ledger board. Joists fastened to the face of the beam or ledger shall be attached with approved metal hangers.
 3. Bridging. Bridging shall be provided at intervals not exceeding eight (8) feet.
 4. Overhanging of joists. Joists which are at right angles to the supporting beam shall not be cantilevered more than two (2) feet past the supporting beam, unless designed by structural analysis.



e. DECKING

1. Material. All decking material shall be a minimum of one and one quarter (1-1/4) inches thick, nominal thickness. One inch decking may be used provided that the joists are spaced no more than 16" on center.
2. Decking Orientation.
 - a. Decking shall be installed diagonally or at right angles to the joists.
 - b. Decking shall be centered over joists with cuts made Parallel to joists. Not more than two adjacent boards may break joints on the same joist except at ends and at openings.

f. GUARDRAILS AND HANDRAILS

1. Guardrails. All decks which are more than twenty four (24) inches above grade shall be protected with guardrails.
2. Handrails. Every stairway of more than three (3) risers shall be provided with at least one handrail. Handrails shall be provided on the open sides of stairways.
3. Guardrails and handrail detail.
 - a. Height: Handrails shall be located at least thirty (30) inches, but not more than thirty-eight (38) inches, above the nosing of the treads. Guardrails shall be located at least thirty-six (36) inches above the surface of the deck.
 - b. Open railings: Open guardrails or handrails shall be provided with intermediate rails or an ornamental pattern to prevent the passage of a sphere with a diameter greater than four (4) inches.
 - c. Railing loads: Handrails and guardrails shall be designed and constructed to withstand a 200 pound load applied in any direction.

g. STAIRWAY, TREADS AND RISERS

1. Risers. Risers shall not exceed eight (8) inches in height measured from tread to tread.
2. Treads. Treads shall be at least nine (9) inches wide, measured horizontally from nose to nose.
3. Variation. There shall be no variation in uniformity exceeding 3/16 inch in the width of a tread or in the height of risers.
4. Stair stringers shall be supported in accordance to the same manner as used for the deck.

h. ALTERNATIVE PROVISIONS AND METHODS

1. Wood Decks. Wood decks attached to the dwelling may be constructed to the Uniform Dwelling Code standards listed below.
 - a. Excavation requirements of s. SPS 321.14
 - b. Footing requirements of s. SPS 321.15
 - c. Frost penetration requirements of s. SPS 321.16
 - d. Load requirements of s. SPS 321.02
 - e. Stair, handrail and guardrail requirements of s. SPS 321.04
 - f. Decay protection requirements of s. SPS 321.10



2. Detached decks must:
 - a. Concrete pads shall be provided at a uniform depth below grade with all loose or organic material moved from the pad area prior to placement of concrete. The pad shall have a minimum depth of 4" thick and 8" in diameter.
 - b. Piers – The minimum of 8" diameter concrete piers shall be at a uniform depth below grade.
 - c. Direct burial wood posts shall be placed on a minimum 2" nominal pressure treated plate or other approved materials at a uniform depth below grade. Posts shall be treated to a uniform depth below grade. Posts shall be treated to CCA.40 for direct soil contact.
 - d. Ground contact framing shall be allowed for decks which are less than 24" above grade. All materials in direct contact with the soil shall be treated to the requirements of the American Wood Preservers' Association (AWPA) Standards C2 and C15.

5. SETBACK REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDENTIAL R-1 & R-2: All setbacks from property line

- a. Front yard 25 feet or 20 feet for uncovered porches or decks
- b. Side yards:
 1. Lots 35 feet in width or greater:
 - a. North or west – 10% of lot width or 5 feet whichever is less
 - b. South or east – 20% of lot width or 10 feet whichever is less
 2. Lots less than 35 feet in width: side yard setbacks shall be established by Board of Appeals
- c. Rear yard 25 feet.

Application for permit shall include structural plan of deck, site plan, and plat of survey. Survey may be omitted if owner can locate property corner irons.



Table No. 2 – Deck Chart

DECK JOIST & BEAM SPAN CHART												
Treated Lumber												
		J	O	I	S	T	L	E	N	G	T	H
		6'	7'	8'	9'	10'	11'	12'	13'	14'	15'	16'
P	4'	Joist Size	2x6 16" oc	2x6 16" oc 2x8 24" oc	2x6 16" oc 2x8 24" OC	2X8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x10 16" oc 2x12 24" oc	2x10 16" oc 2x12 16" oc	2x12 16" oc
		Beam Size	1-2x6	1-2x6 1-2x8	1-2X6 1-2X8	1-2x8 1-2x10	1-2x8 1-2x10	1-2x8 1-2x10	1-2x8 1-2x10	1-2x8 1-2x12	1-2x10	1-2x10 1-2x12
O	5'	Joist Size	2x6 24" oc	2x6 16" oc 2x8 24" oc	2x6 16" oc 2x8 24" OC	2X8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x10 16" oc 2x12 24" oc	2x10 16" oc 2x12 16" oc	2x12 16" oc
		Beam Size	1-2x6	2-2x6 1-2x8	2-2X6 1-2X8	1-2x8 1-2x10	1-2x8 1-2x10	1-2x8 1-2x10	1-2x8 1-2x10	1-2x10 1-2x12	1-2x10	1-2x10 1-2x12
S	6'	Joist Size	2x6 24" oc	2x6 16" oc 2x8 24" oc	2x6 16" oc 2x8 24" OC	2X8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x10 16" oc 2x12 24" oc	2x10 16" oc 2x12 16" oc	2x12 16" oc
		Beam Size	2-2x6	2-2x6 1-2x8	2-2X6 2-2X8	2-2x8 1-2x10	2-2x8 1-2x10	2-2x8 1-2x10	2-2x8 1-2x10	2-2x10 1-2x12	2-2x10	2-2x10 1-1x12
T	7'	Joist Size	2x6 24" oc	2x6 16" oc 2x8 24" oc	2x6 16" oc 2x8 24" OC	2X8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x10 16" oc 2x12 24" oc	2x10 16" oc 2x12 16" oc	2x12 16" oc
		Beam Size	2-2x6	3-2x6 2-2x8	3-2X6 2-2X8	2-2x8 2-2x10	2-2x8 2-2x10	2-2x8 2-2x10	3-2x8 2-2x10	2-2x10 1-2x12	2-2x10	2-2x10 2-2x12
S	8'	Joist Size	2x6 24" oc	2x6 16" oc 2x8 24" OC	2x6 16" oc 2x8 24" OC	2X8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x10 16" oc 2x12 24" oc	2x10 16" oc 2x12 16" oc	2x12 16" oc
		Beam Size	3-2x6 2-2x8	3-2x6 2-2x8	3-2X6 2-2X8	3-2x8 2-2x10	3-2x8 2-2x10	3-2x8 2-2x10	3-2x8 2-2x10	2-2x10 2-2x12	3-2x10	3-2x10 2-2x12
P	9'	Joist Size	2x6 24" oc	2x6 16" oc 2x8 24" OC	2x6 16" oc 2x8 24" OC	2X8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x10 16" oc 2x12 24" oc	2x10 16" oc 2x12 16" oc	2x12 16" oc
		Beam Size	3-2x6 2-2x8	4-2x6 3-2x8	4-2X6 3-2X8	3-2x8 2-2x10	3-2x8 2-2x10	3-2x8 2-2x10	3-2x8 3-2x10	4-2x8 2-2x12	3-2x10	3-2x10 2-2x12
A	10'	Joist Size	2x6 24" oc	2x6 16" oc 2x8 24" OC	2X6-16" OC 2x8 24" OC	2X8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x10 16" oc 2x12 24" oc	2x10 16" oc 2x12 16" oc	2x12 16" oc
		Beam Size	4-2x6 3-2x8	3-2x8 2-2x10	3-2X8 2-2X10	3-2x8 2-2x10	4-2x8 3-2x10	4-2x8 3-2x10	4-2x8 3-2x10	3-2x10 2-2x12	3-2x10	4-2x10 3-2x12
C	11'	Joist Size	2x6 24" oc	2x6 16" oc 2x8 24" OC	2x6 16" oc 2x8 24" OC	2X8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x10 16" oc 2x12 24" oc	2x10 16" oc 2x12 16" oc	2x12 16" oc
		Beam Size	3-2x8 2-2x10	3-2x8 2-2x10	4-2X8 3-2X10	4-2x8 3-2x10	3-2x10 2-2x12	3-2x10 2-2x12	3-2x10 3-2x12	4-2x10 3-2x12	4-2x10	4-2x10 3-2x12
I	12'	Joist Size	2x6 24" oc	2x6 16" oc 2x8 24" OC	2x6 16" oc 2x8 24" OC	2X8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x10 16" oc 2x12 24" oc	2x10 16" oc 2x12 16" oc	2x12 16" oc
		Beam Size	3-2x8 2-2x10	4-2x8 3-2x10	4-2X8 3-2X10	3-2x10 2-2x12	2-2x10 3-2x12	4-2x10 3-2x12	4-2x10 3-2x12	4-2x10 3-2x12	3-2x12	3-2x12
N	13'	Joist Size	2x6 24" oc	2x6 16" oc 2x8 24" OC	2x6 16" oc 2x8 24" OC	2X8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x10 16" oc 2x12 24" oc	2x10 16" oc 2x12 16" oc	2x12 16" oc
		Beam Size	3-2x8 3-2x10	4-2x8 3-2x10	3-2X10 3-2X12	4-2x10 3-2x12	4-2x10 3-2x12	4-2x10 3-2x12	3-2x10 3-2x12	3-2x12	4-2x12	4-2x12
G	14'	Joist Size	2x6 24" oc	2x6 16" oc 2x8 24" OC	2x6 16" oc 2x8 24" OC	2X8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x8 16" oc 2x10 24" oc	2x10 16" oc 2x12 24" oc	2x10 16" oc 2x12 16" oc	2x12 16" oc
		Beam Size	4-2x8 3-2x10	3-2x10 3-2x12	4-2X10 3-2X12	4-2x10 3-2x12	4-2x10 3-2x12	3-2x12	4-2x12	4-2x12	4-2x12	Eng. Beam Req'd