



Fire Department / Building Safety
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Residential Deck Information

2009 International Residential Code

Building Inspectors: Charles Montgomery -- 403-6115 Kaelob Capel -- 403-6107

Office Hours:

7:30 - 8:30 am 3:30 - 4:30 pm

GENERAL

- No permit is needed if **all** of the following items apply: 1) the deck is less than 120 sq. ft., 2) the deck is not attached to the house, 3) the deck is not over 30" (30 inches) above grade and 4) does not serve the exit door required by Section R311.4.
- If a permit is required - provide a site plan showing setback dimensions and property lines.
- Show the dimensions and sq. ft. area of the deck.
- Depth of posts/footings minimum of 32 in. below grade.

FRAMING

- Wood shall be pressure treated or decay resistant.
- Show size and spacing of floor joists.
- Show size and spacing of posts.
- Show size of girders and beams supporting floor joists.
- All multi (2 ply, 3 ply, etc.) beams must be fastened together.
- Joist, beam or girder bearing is required to have not less than 1.5 inches of bearing on wood or metal and not less than 3 inches on masonry or concrete.
- If deck is attached to the house, show connection details.
- Deck is not permitted to connect to masonry veneer or cantilevered joist.
- Joist hangers are required where joists do not rest directly on a girder.
- Show the height of the deck above grade.
- For roofed over or screened in decks, include additional information, i.e., header sizes and spans; size, spacing and span of rafters or trusses; and type of roof sheathing, tar paper and shingles. Roof rafters require truss clips. Roofing license is required, unless homeowner is doing the project. Support posts require uplift connectors at bottom and top.
- Non-bearing cantilevered floor joists are limited to 2 ft. with a back span of minimum of 6 ft. and require uplift connections at the joist to beam location.
- Lateral load connections are required when the top of the deck floor is six feet or more above finish grade. Hold-down tension devices are required in not less than two locations per deck and with each device having an allowable stress design capacity of not less than 1500 pounds.

STEPS / HANDRAILS / GUARDRAILS

- Steps of four or more risers require a handrail 34 in. -38 in. high. Handrail must be graspable and be continuous for the full length of the stairs and return or terminate in newel posts.
- Handrail grip size must be either circular (1-1/4 in. to 2 in.), square (cross section of no more than 2-1/4 in.), or other shapes (1-1/4 in. to 2-3/4 in. with a perimeter of no more than 6-1/4 in.).
- Minimum 10 in. tread and maximum 7 3/4 in. risers on stairs. Tread is measured from nosing to nosing.
- Open riser spaces must be less than 4 in.
- Decks greater than 30 in. above grade require a guardrail. Grade is measured at any point within 36 in. horizontally to the edge of the deck.
- Guardrail height is minimum 36 in. above the deck.
- Openings in the guardrail shall not allow passage of a 4 in. diameter sphere.

