

Decks

A deck is an exposed exterior wood floor structure, which may be attached to the structure or free standing. The following information obtained from this brochure will help you in the process of obtaining permits, building the deck and completing the inspection process.

Applying for permit:

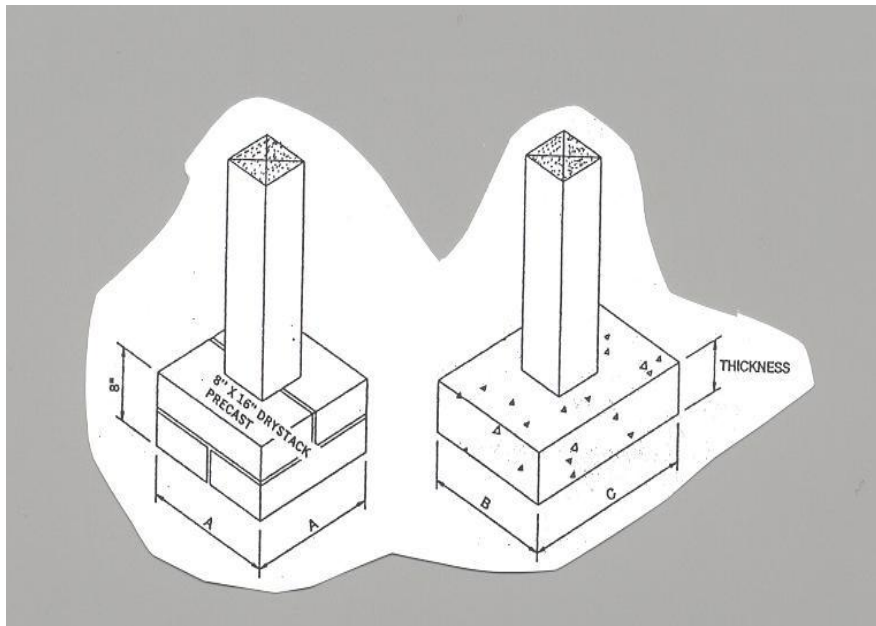
Plans must be submitted showing the following:

- Location of deck being attached to structure. Please show all property lines with distances from proposed deck to these lines as well as to the well and septic tank/lines.
- Show dimension of deck; location of all footings and distance between footings.
- All framing lumber dimensions including post size and height, load bearing girders, floor joist and spacing, deck material to be used, handrail details with the height for the steps and the guardrail details including height and picket spacing is required. Guardrails and pickets are not required when less than 30" to finish grade from the deck surface.
- Since there are many variables as to type of deck and size of deck, please consult with the building inspector for spans of floor joist, girder sizes, etc. More information may be required depending on size and height of the deck and whether it is freestanding or attached to the existing structure.

General Building Information:

Footings:

All support posts for the deck including the steps and landings shall rest on a minimum of 16" x 16" x 8" thick concrete masonry **or** 16" x 16" x 8" thick poured in place concrete footing. The top of the concrete block or poured footing shall be a minimum of 4" below grade.



Steps and Stairways:

Stairways shall not be less than 36" in clear width. Steps shall have a maximum riser height of 8 1/4" and the minimum tread depth shall be 9". Handrails are needed on stairways consisting of three or more steps and handrails shall be a minimum of 30" above the step to a maximum of 38". Handrails are required on open sides of stairways.

Guardrails:

Decks located more than 30" above grade shall have guard rails not less 36" in height. Guardrails and handrails are required on open sides of stairways, decks and landings and shall prevent the passage of an object 6" or more in diameter. Horizontal spacing between the vertical members in required guardrails shall be a maximum of 4" at the nearest point between the members.

