

Approved Plastic & Composite

Decking Continued

- Protection Deck Boards
- Pro Perfect Decking
- Rhino Deck
- Sheerline PVC Decking
- Teck Deck
- Timber Tech Decking
- Trex Composite Lumber
- UltraDeck
- VEKAdeck
- Veranda Deck Boards
- WeatherBest Composite
- XTENDEX
- There are always new products entering the market place– If your product is not listed here, please verify approval with your supplier.

Design Considerations

- When using treated wood (AcQ) all fasteners, hangers, nails and flashing must be compatible with the wood preservative treatment. **Check with lumber supplier.**
- Joists can be cantilevered a maximum of 2-feet over beams.
- Beams can overhang posts by a maximum of 1-foot.
- Footings must be a minimum of 12-inches in diameter, 6-inches thick and 60-inches below grade
- As a general rule, 4 x 4 support posts are adequate for decks less than 6-feet in height. 4 x 6 support posts are recommended for decks higher than 6 - feet
- If it is your intent to construct a porch upon the deck in the future, please plan ahead when sizing footings, joists and the like.

REQUIREMENTS

DECKS



Building Department

704 Broadway
Alexandria, MN 56308
(320) 763-6678

Required Information

Information required when applying for a building permit:

- A site plan drawn to 1:20 scale showing the existing structure and the proposed deck. The site plan needs to show the location of the proposed deck in relation to the lake, if applicable, the property lines and the street.
- *Decks cannot be placed in an easement. Decks are prohibited from being closer than five feet from rear and side property lines. Check with the City Planner for site specific setback and impervious coverage information.*
- Two (2) copies of construction plans showing the proposed design and materials. The following information must be included:
 - **FLOOR PLAN SHOWING:**
 - Proposed deck size
 - Size and spacing of floor joists
 - Decking
 - Size and location of footings and posts. Depth of footings.
 - Beam size(s) and location(s)
 - Type of material being used
 - **ELEVATION SHOWING:**
 - Height of structure above grade
 - Guardrail height
 - Spacing between vertical or horizontal members of the guardrail

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I need a building permit?

A building permit is required for **any** deck that is attached to a **structure** or any **detached** deck more than 30-inches above grade.

What are the codes for stairway construction?

All stairways must be at least 36-inches wide. The minimum tread width cannot be less than 10-inches and the maximum rise cannot exceed 7 3/4-inches. The largest tread width or riser height shall not exceed the smallest by more than 3/8-inch. Open risers are permitted provided that the opening between the treads does not permit the passage of a 4-inch diameter sphere.

When is a guardrail required?

A guardrail is required on all decks more than 30-inches above grade.

What are the requirements for a guardrail?

A guardrail must be a minimum of 36-inches in height. Open guardrails and stair railings must have intermediate rails or an ornamental pattern that a 4-inch sphere cannot pass through. Exception: the triangular opening formed by the riser, tread and bottom element of a guardrail may be sized so that a 6-inch sphere cannot pass through.

Where is flashing required?

It is very important to install flashing where the ledger board is attached to the structure. The flashing must extend behind the siding and over the top of the ledger to prevent water intrusion.

Can the posts be buried in the concrete footing?

The posts CANNOT be buried in the concrete. This will cause the post to rot and lose its structural integrity.

What about plastic and/or composite decking?

Not all plastic and/or composite decking is approved for use on exterior decks. The following products are currently (1/20/06) approved for use:

- A.E.R.T. CHOICEDEK
- Andersen Engineered Decking
- Boardwalk Composite Decking
- Brock Deck
- Carefree Decking System
- C-Clip Vinyl Deck System
- Certainteed PVC Deck Planks
- Classic Manor PVC Decking
- Correct Deck
- Cross Timbers
- Deck Lok Decking
- Dream Deck
- E-Deck Composite Decking
- Eon Decking System
- Epoch Evergrain Decking
- Everx Extruded Wood Products
- EVOLVE Lumber Plastic Decking
- Fiberon Decking
- GeoDeck
- Lakeshore
- Liberty Decking
- Life Long Composite
- Monarch Decking
- Nexwood Decking
- Perma-Deck
- Perma-Poly Boards
- Premier
- Presidio Vinyl Decking



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