



Town of Walworth, New York

Building & Zoning Department
3600 Lorraine Drive, Walworth NY 14568
Phone: 315.986.1400 Fax: 315.986.1440
www.townofwalworthny.gov

RESIDENTIAL DECKS INFORMATION SHEET

Building Permits

Required for any deck attached to a structure or not attached including swimming pools.

Fees

\$50.00 due at time of permit request.

Frost Footings

Required for any deck attached to a dwelling, porch or garage that has frost footing. The minimum depth to the base of the footing is 42 inches.

Live Load

All decks shall be designed to support a live load of 40 pounds per square foot, except decks that will have a hot tub the live load shall be 100 pounds per square foot.

Guards/Guardrails

Required on all decks or stairs more than 30 inches above grade or a lower deck. See page 4 for illustration. Exception: On an open stringer stairway, the triangular opening formed by the riser, tread and bottom rail of a guard must be sized so that a six inch sphere cannot pass through.

Stairs

Minimum width shall be 36 inches. The maximum riser height shall be 8 1/4 inches and the minimum tread depth shall be 9 inches. The largest tread width or riser height shall not exceed the smallest by more than 3/8 of an inch. Maximum 4 inch opening at risers greater than 30 inches above grade. See *Residential Stairway/Guards* information sheet.

Cantilevers: Overhanging Joists & Beams

Joists should not overhang beams by more than 2 feet, nor should beams overhang posts by more than 1 foot unless a special design is approved.

Framing Details

Beams shall be carriage bolted to posts.

Ledgers shall be lag screwed or carriage bolted to dwelling rim joist or wall studs a minimum of one 1/2 inch fastener every 32 inches.

Beams and joists attached to ledgers or beams shall be supported by approved framing anchors such as hangers.

Hangers shall be fastened per manufacturer's instructions.

Flashing

All connections between deck and dwelling shall be weatherproof. Flashing shall be compatible with pressure treated wood products.

Nails, Screws and Fasteners

All fasteners less than 1/2 inch in diameter shall be hot dipped galvanized or stainless steel.

Any alternative fasteners shall be approved by the Building Department prior to installation.

Wood Required

All exposed wood is required to be approved wood with natural resistance to decay (redwood, cedar, etc.) or approved pressure treated wood. This includes posts, beams, joists, ledgers, decking and railings.

Handrails

Handrails shall be provided on at least one side of each stairway with four or more risers. Handrail height, measured above stair nosings shall be not less than 34 inches and not more than 38 inches. All required handrails shall be continuous the full length of the stairs from a point directly above the top riser to a point directly above the lowest riser. Handrails shall be between 1 1/4 to 2 1/4 inches in cross-sectional dimension or the shape shall provide an equivalent gripping surface.

Inspections

Footings - prior to pouring concrete

Framing - prior to decking

Final - Certificate of Compliance