



## Deck Information

### General Information:

This information is supplied to assist you in designing and building your deck. It is not a complete listing or explanation of all building code regulations, but is intended to help you address the code requirements most often encountered when constructing decks.

**Please note: Decks not more than 30 inches above the ground are exempt from the permit requirements of the International Residential Code (IRC).**

### Framing:

Wood - permanently exposed to weather must be **treated wood or wood of natural resistance to decay** such as cedar. IRC Sec. R319. Framing members must be designed to carry a 40 psf uniform load per IRC Table R301.5.

### Guardrails:

All decks **more than 30" above grade** must have a minimum **36"** high guardrail. Intermediate rails or an ornamental pattern shall be provided such that a sphere **4"** in diameter cannot pass **between rails**. IRC Sec. R312. Guardrails must be capable of resisting a minimum **200 psf** load applied to the top of railing per IBC Table R301.5.

### Stairways:

Stairways must meet the following requirements:

**Width** - the minimum stairway width must be not less than **36"**. IRC Sec. R311.5.1.

**Handrails** - stairways must have a handrail placed not less than **34"** nor more than **38"** above the nosing of treads. The handgrip portion of handrails must not be less than **1-1/4"** nor more than **2"** in cross-sectional dimension. Handrails shall return to a post or the wall.

**Rise** - the rise of every step in a stairway must be greater than **7 3/4"**. The greatest riser height within any flight of stairs must not exceed the smallest by more than **3/8"**.

**Run** - the run must not be less than **10"**. The largest tread run within any flight of stairs must not exceed the smallest by more than **3/8"**.

If your design is complicated, difficult, or if you do not understand the code requirements above, you may wish to seek help from a licensed contractor, architect, engineer, or other design professional. If you are interested in learning more about designing and building decks, there are many excellent books available at building supply stores and at the library.

This information is provided only as a guide. Other code requirements may apply to your project

and actual code compliance will be verified by the building inspector. Any materials or methods not in conformance with the code requirements will need to be corrected, so please plan your work carefully.