



WASHTENAW COUNTY BUILDING DEPARTMENT  
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**All deck plans must contain the following information:**

- Accurate dimensions of the deck.
- Type of siding where attaching to house.
- Method of attaching to house (including size, type and spacing of anchors, and type and method of flashing).
- What (structural component/material of house) will deck be attached to?
- Height above ground.
- Size and placement of posts; size and span of beams; size, span, and spacing of joists.
- Stair placement and proximity to any windows.

**All decks must comply with the following requirements:**

- Decks must be constructed of treated or naturally durable lumber.
- Fasteners and flashings must be hot dipped galvanized, stainless steel or other corrosion resistant material compatible with ACQ lumber.
- Decks cannot be supported from any house cantilever.
- Decks cannot be supported from brick veneer. Any wood, metal or vinyl siding must be removed and deck ledger properly flashed.
- Beams must be directly supported on (not just bolted to) and fastened to posts.
- Decks must be constructed to support a live load of 40 lbs. / sq. ft. and resist all lateral forces. Decks attached to houses must be adequately bolted.
- Existing windows that are within 60" of deck stairs must be replaced with safety glazing (typically tempered).
- Guardrails at least 36" high, which do not allow passage of a 4" sphere, are required wherever 30" or more above grade. Guards must be able to resist 200 lbs. of force.
- "Graspable" handrails, located 34" to 38" above nosing, and with ends returned, are required at all stairs with 4 or more risers.
- All footings must be 42" below grade and on un-disturbed soil. Any posts located near the house foundation may be on fill and must be excavated down to undisturbed soil.