

Codes for Decks

Per SPS 321.225 Decks attached to dwellings and detached decks which serve an exit shall comply with the applicable sections of the code (UDC) including but not limited to:

Excavation requirements found in SPS 321.14

Footing requirements found in SPS 321.15(2)(f)

Frost penetration requirements found in SPS 321.16

Load requirements found in SPS 321.02

Stair, handrail, and guardrail requirements found in SPS 321.04

Decay protection found in SPS 321.10

A deck that complies with the standards in Ch. 325 Appendix B and Ch. 325 Appendix C, shall be considered as complying with the Code

Submittals in order to obtain a permit:

1. A plot plan showing the size of the deck and location in relation to property lines, wells, septic systems, etc.
2. A drawing showing at least:
 - a. Height of deck above grade _____
 - b. Deck supports (wood posts or concrete columns or?) _____
 - 1) Depth below grade and footing size (min depth is 48") _____
 - c. Joist information including:
 - 1) Size 2 x ____ Spacing of joist (usually 12" o.c., or 16" o.c.) _____
 - 2) Species of Wood and Grade _____
 - 3) Span between supports planned _____
 - 4) Any overhang beyond beam support (limited to 2' without calculations)
 - d. Stair details – guardrails on open sides and a handrail is required if the stair has more than 3 rises.
 - 1) Number of rises and height (max rise is 8") _____
 - 2) Length of treads measured nose to nose (minimum of 9") _____
 - 3) Number of stringers (sometimes called jacks) _____
 - 4) Width of stairway (minimum of 36") _____
 - 5) Stairways with open risers shall be constructed to prevent the through-passage of a sphere with a diameter of 4 inches or larger between any 2 adjacent treads.
 - e. Guardrail details (required if deck surface is over 24" above grade)
 - 1) Height of guardrail (minimum of 36") _____
 - 2) Maximum opening size in guardrail (must be 4 3/8" or less) _____
 - 3) Guardrail supports (guardrail must be able to resist 200 lb. load applied in any direction)