

**CODE REQUIREMENTS FOR DECKS & PORCHES
POST & WOOD CONSTRUCTION**

Post should be a minimum of 36 inches below grade and should be set on footer in the bottom of the post hole or, at very least; a slab of concrete should be placed in the bottom of the hole prior to setting of the post.

Where supported by attachment to an exterior wall, decks shall be positively anchored to the primary structure and designed for both vertical and lateral loads as applicable. Such attachment shall be made with bolts or lag screws according to the following table.

MAXIMUM FASTENING SPACING IN INCHES

JOIST SPAN	6'	8'	10'	12'	14'	16'	18'
Lag Screws	30	23	18	15	13	11	10
Bolts	36	36	34	29	24	21	19

Bolts or lag screws shall be a minimum of ½ inch in diameter. Assumes connection directly to 1 1/2 inch thick wood or 1 ¼ inch thick composite wood band joist. Lag screws shall fully penetrate the band joist and be staggered to prevent splitting. Washers shall be installed under lag screw heads, bolt heads, and nuts.

If a deck has cantilevered framing, the framing must have a connection to its support that is designed to resist any uplift resulting from the full live load acting on the cantilevered span only.

Wood structural members shall be of pressure treated lumber and any lumber in contact with the ground must be approved for ground contact.

Steps to deck and porches shall be a minimum of 3 feet in width and shall have a nosing or effective projection not less than 3/4 inch and not more than 1 ¼ inch when risers are closed. The maximum rise shall be no more than 8 ¼ inches and the minimum tread depth shall not be less than 9 inches. The greatest riser height and the greatest tread depth within any flight of stairs shall not exceed the smallest by more than 3/8 inch.

Handrails shall be provided on at least one side of each continuous run of treads with four or more risers. Handrails height shall be measured vertically from the nosing of the tread and shall be a height of 34 to 38 inches. Open sides of stairs with a total rise of more than thirty (30) inches above the floor or grade below, shall have guardrails. Handrails that form part of a guardrail shall have a height not less than thirty-four (34) inches and not more than thirty-eight (38) inches.

Decks and porches located more than thirty (30) inches above the floor or grade below shall have guardrails not less the thirty-six (36) inches height.

Required guardrail on open sides of stairways, raised floor areas, balconies, porches, and decks shall have intermediate rails or ornamental closures which will not allow passage of an object four (4) inches or more in diameter.

Exceptions: 1. The triangular openings formed by the riser, tread and bottom rail of a guard at the open side of a stairway are permitted to be of such size that a sphere 6 inches cannot pass through.

2. Openings for required guards of the sides of stairs treads shall not allow a sphere $4 \frac{3}{8}$ inches to pass through.

Approved corrosion-resistant flashing shall be installed where exterior porches, decks or stairs attach to a wall or floor assembly of wood-frame construction.

When using joist hangers, they shall be secured with approved nails for the hanger. Fasteners for pressure preservative treated wood shall be of G185 hot-dipped galvanized steel, stainless steel, silicon bronze, copper, or the requirement of the chemical manufacturer of the chemicals used in the treated wood. Except for borate treated wood, aluminum fasteners, hardware, or flashing shall not be in direct contact with pressure preservative treated wood.