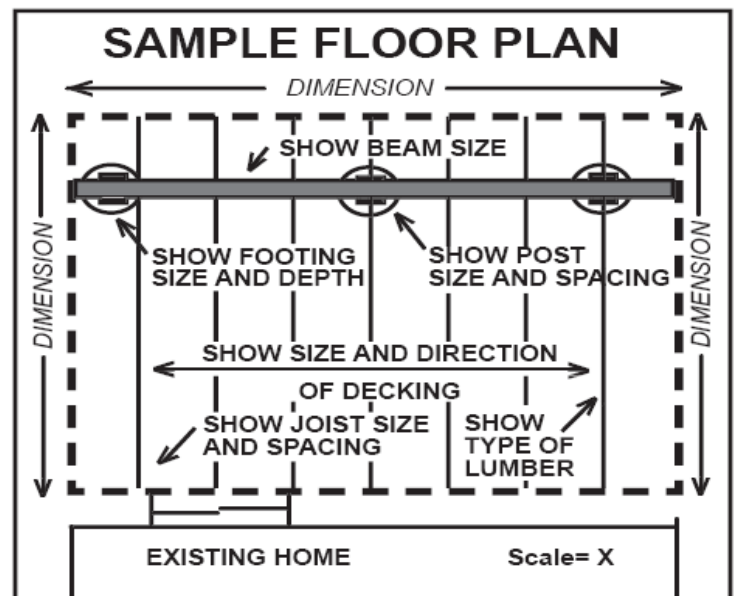
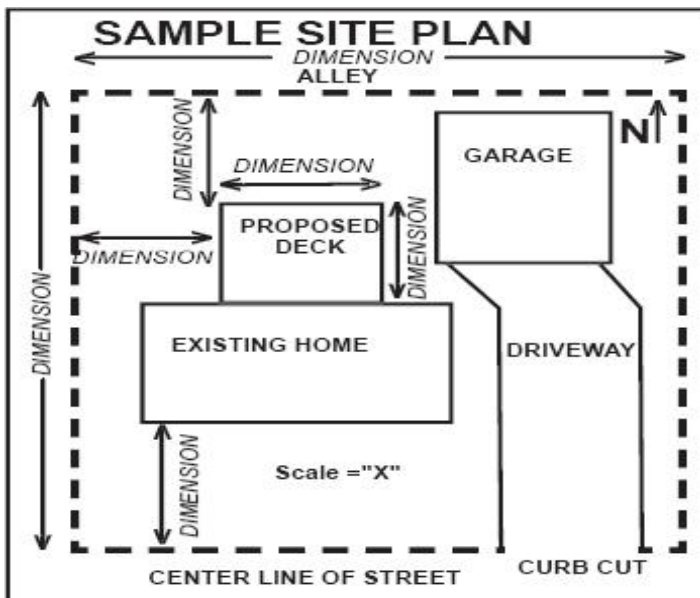


PERMITS

- A Building Permit is required for all decks that are over 30" from grade or that are attached to a structure with frost footings.
- A Zoning Permit is required to verify proper placement and setbacks for all other decks that don't require a Building Permit.

REQUIRED SUBMITTALS

- A signed Building Permit application or Zoning Permit application, depending on the above requirements
- Design plans must be drawn to scale, preferably 1/4 inch, and illustrate the following:
 - Site plan with distances to property lines
 - Size of deck
 - Size and spacing of joists
 - Size of beams
 - Size and spacing of posts
 - Size and depth of footings
 - Height and design of guards
 - Height of deck from grade
 - Type of decking material
 - Type of lumber



REQUIRED INSPECTIONS

- **Footings:** After the holes are dug, but prior to the pouring of concrete
- **Framing:** To be made after all framing, blocking, and bracing are in place and prior to covering the construction so it is accessible for inspection. This inspection can be completed at the time of the final inspection if all parts of the framing will be visible and accessible.
- **Final:** To be made upon completion of the deck and finish grading.
- **Other inspections:** In addition to the three inspections above, the inspector may make or require other code inspections to insure compliance with the provisions of the code or to assist you during construction

ZONING REQUIREMENTS

Setbacks. Setbacks from property lines vary depending upon the zoning district your home is located in. Contact the Inspections Department or consult the Zoning Setbacks & Requirements Handout for the requirements in your location. This is an important first step in the planning for any deck project.

Setback Encroachments. Fire escapes, uncovered stairs, ramps and necessary landings, balconies, uncovered decks or porches, are allowed into the setback area, provided they do not extend more than four (4) feet into the required yard. [*Redwood Falls Zoning Ordinance 7.12*]

BUILDING CODE REQUIREMENTS

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

Structural Design. All decks shall be designed to support a live load of 40 pounds per square foot minimum.

Lumber. All exposed wood is required to be naturally resistant to decay (redwood, cedar, etc.) or approved treated wood. This includes posts, beams, joists, decking and railings. Cedar or redwood posts need an eight (8) inch separation from the ground. Any composite or plastic decking materials must be approved prior to installation.

Beams: A one-foot maximum beam overhang from the edge of the post is allowed. Any splices must be made over a post.

Ledger: Ledger boards must be bolted or lag screwed to solid material, such as interior rim joist, floor truss, sill plate, etc in accordance with section 507 of Minnesota State Residential Code and this handout. Flashing is required where the deck ledger is attached to the structure.

Flashing. All connections between the deck and dwelling shall be flashed with an approved material. Any cuts or penetrations into the existing structure must be flashed and caulked in an approved manner. Flashing and other materials in contact with treated lumber shall be galvanized, stainless steel or vinyl. Aluminum is not permitted in contact with pressure treated wood.

House Cantilever: A cantilevered area (boxed or bay area overhang, usually with a patio door) will not support a deck structure. Additional design considerations and details will be required at these areas.

Joist Cantilever: Joists must not overhang the beam edge by more than two feet.

Fasteners. All nails, screws and other connectors must be hot-dipped galvanized, stainless steel or of other approved corrosion resistance. Note: If joist hangers are stainless steel nails in contact with hangers must be of the same material. The same would apply to any galvanized products.

Guards: Decks more than 30 inches above grade must be enclosed by guards a minimum of 36 inches high. Spindles and balusters must be spaced so that a four-inch sphere cannot pass between them. Stairways to decks more than 30 inches above grade require guards and handrails a minimum of 34 inches in height.

Stairways: Minimum 36-inch wide stairway, maximum 7-3/4 inch rise, minimum 4-inch rise, minimum 10-inch tread depth, and maximum 4-inch riser opening. All riser heights should be equal. The greatest riser height must not exceed the smallest by more than 3/8 inch. Special attention should be given to the top and bottom riser height design to assure that all of the risers are of equal size. Stairs with a total rise of 30 inches or more above grade require 34 inch minimum height guards with a maximum 4-3/8 inch spindle spacing. Openings in the back of risers shall not exceed four inches.

Handrails: A continuous handrail is required for stairways with four or more risers. Handrails must be installed a minimum of 34 inches, to a maximum of 38 inches, above the tread nosing. The ends of the handrails must be returned or terminated in the post. The handgrips must be 1-1/4 to 2 inches wide in a shape easy to grip.

Special Design Note: These requirements are for deck structures only. Additional considerations are required if deck design is intended for a future covered porch or enclosure.