



DECK (RESIDENTIAL) HANDOUT

Building Department

1480 Main Street

St. Helena, CA 94574

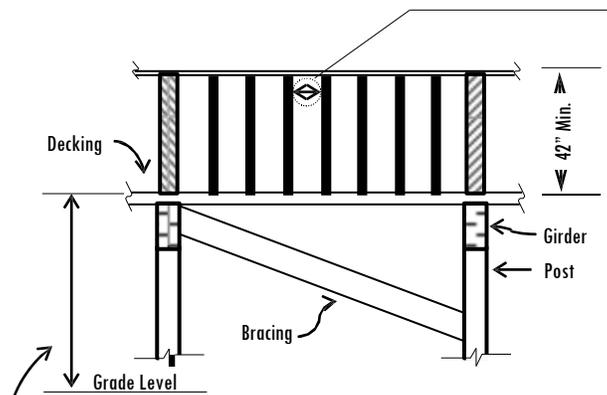
(707)968-2657

For additional information, forms & documents please visit us on the web at: <http://www.cityofsthelema.org/content/building>

Designing Your Deck

Construction or modification of any deck requires a building permit. We recommend that you seek the help of a professional to design your deck, but if you choose to do it yourself, there are many books available to help you with the design process. In order to obtain a permit you will need to provide the following information on your plans:

Framing/Decking/Guardrails



Openings between rails must be such that a 4 inch diameter sphere cannot pass through. R312.1.3. Opening between rails on stairs must be 4.375 in. R312.1.3 Excep 2.

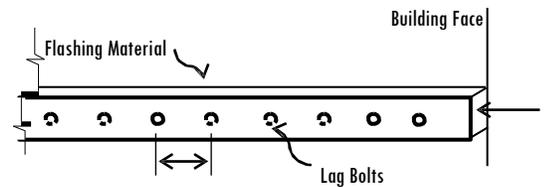
The height must be a minimum of 42" from the deck surface to the top of the guard. R312.1.2

Framing & bracing should be of sufficient size to meet structural requirements for your particular deck & location.

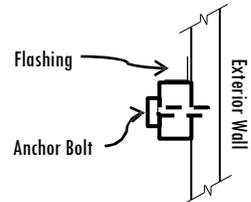
Decking should be of a material appropriate to your Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

A **Guard Rail** is required on all decking 30 inches or more above grade. R312.1.1

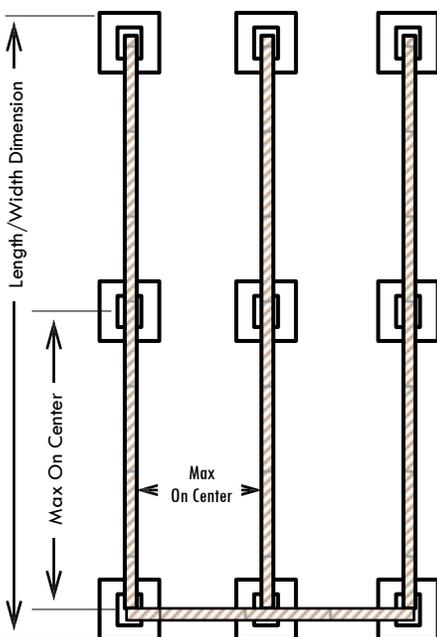
Wall Attachment



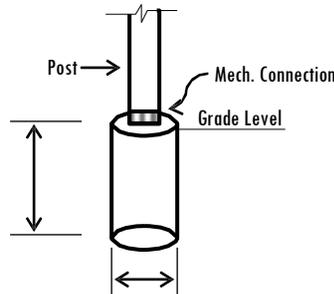
Where supported by attachment to an exterior wall, decks shall be positively anchored to the primary structure and designed for both vertical and lateral loads as applicable. Toe nailing is not allowed. R507.1 Provide the type of connection, spacing & method of installation as appropriate.



Footing Plan



Footing Detail



Provide a detail showing dimensions and depth of footing. Note any mechanical ties & types of materials being used. Be sure they are sufficient to support the deck against acting forces.

Stair Construction



Additional Details

Collect all the information you need before beginning your design. In addition to the items listed above, you need to be aware of the items listed below:

- Loads: Seismic, Wind, Live, Dead
- Fire Hazard Severity Zone
- Construction Material
- Valuation
- Egress from your residence.

For details on submittal requirements, check our website or speak to a member of our staff.