



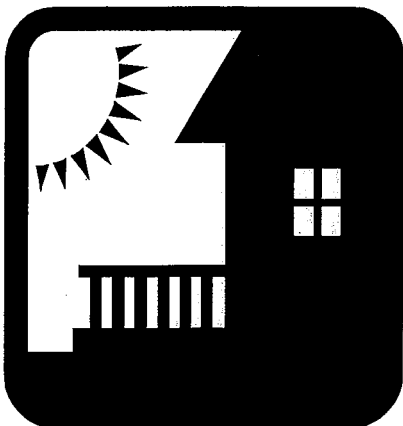
Chisago County Zoning Office
313 North Main St. Rm 243
Center City, MN 55012
651-213-8371

www.co.chisago.mn.us

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DECKS

PERMITS

Building permits are required for all decks that are attached to the home or are 30 inches or more above grade. Decks less than 30 inches above grade and not attached to other structures do not require a building permit but are required to meet setbacks as set forth in the zoning ordinance.

PERMIT FEES

A construction value is determined at the time of application. The building permit fee will be based on that value and is designed to cover the cost of a plan review and the field inspections that will be done during construction. The fee for decks up to 200 square feet in area runs approximately \$140.00. The permit fee is required at time of application. We accept cash or checks.

The plan review is done by the building inspector to foresee potential problems. The inspector may make notes on the plan for your use. The plan review and inspections are not designed to be a guarantee of the work, but are done to provide a reasonable degree of review and observation so the project will be successful, safe, and long lasting.

APPLYING FOR A PERMIT

Upon application general information will be needed such as, name, address, legal description, and tax parcel number. You will be asked to draw a site plan on the application itself, showing the existing location of the house, proposed location of the deck, and setbacks from road, property lines, etc.

2 copies of building plans are required, examples of which are provided later in this brochure.

REQUIRED INSPECTIONS

1. Footings: Once the holes are dug, PRIOR to the placing of any concrete.

2. 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.

3. Final: To be made upon completion of the deck and finish grading.

****Please have inspection card on site, accessible to the inspector during all inspections****

GENERAL BUILDING CODE REQUIREMENTS

a. Footings must extend to frost depth (42 inches minimum) required for any deck that is attached to a dwelling or garage that has frost footing.

b. Decks need to be designed for a 40 pound per square foot live load and all balconies to a 60 pound per square foot live load. Decks exposed to the weather must be constructed of approved wood with natural resistance to decay such as redwood, cedar or treated wood. Also members which form the structural support including: horizontal members such as beams, joists, ledger boards and decking; and vertical members such as posts, poles, and columns need to be so constructed. Ledger boards must be bolted or lagged to the building and all connections between the deck and dwelling must be flashed. Proper hardware (nails, hangars, brackets etc.) must be compatible with the type of treated lumber. Before using alternative building products, check with one of the building inspectors, some plastic/composite decking materials have not been tested and approved for use.

c. Columns and posts in contact with the ground or embedded in concrete, earth or masonry must be of special pressure treated wood approved for ground contact. (.40 treated).

d. Deck joist should not overhang beams by more than two feet, nor should beams overhang posts by more than a foot at the ends. Floor joist spacing at 24 inches on center requires 2x decking minimum and floor joist spacing at 16 inches on center requires 1x decking minimum. Cedar or redwood posts need proper separation from ground.

e. All decks, balconies or porches, open sides of landings and stairs which are more than 30 inches above grade or a floor below must be protected by a guard not less than 36 inches in height. Open guard and stair railings require intermediate rails of an ornamental pattern such that a sphere 4 inches in diameter cannot pass through.

f. If a stairway is to be provided, it must be not less than 36 inches in width. Stairways may be constructed having a 7 3/4 inch maximum rise (height) and a 10 inch minimum run (length). The largest tread rise and tread run may not exceed the smallest corresponding tread rise or run by more than 3/8 inch. Stairway illumination is required by the code.

g. Handrails are required on all stairways having 4 or more risers. Handrails may not be less than 1 1/4 "nor more than 2 5/8" in cross sectional area (diameter). Handrails must be installed not less than

34 inches nor more than 38 inches above the nosing (front edge) of treads and they must be returned to a wall or post.

h. The electrical code may require overhead power lines to be located a minimum 10 feet above decks and platforms (check with the State Board of Electricity at 651-642-0800).

i. When locating a deck care must be given to the location of existing gas and electric meters, wells, and septic systems. Prior to the placement of any deck that will interfere with these devices, contact one of the building inspectors.

NOTE: For specific code requirements, please contact the Chisago County Building Department.

SPECIAL DESIGN NOTE: Some deck designs may not be appropriate should the placement of a screen porch or 3 season porch on the deck platform be a future consideration. Deck requirements are not always structurally designed to allow them to be altered to a 3 season porch, you may want to consider designing for future 3-season porch use.

PLANS: SITE, FLOOR, and ELEVATION

The following text and sample drawing show the minimum detail expected so the permit process can proceed smoothly. TWO sets of each plan are required.

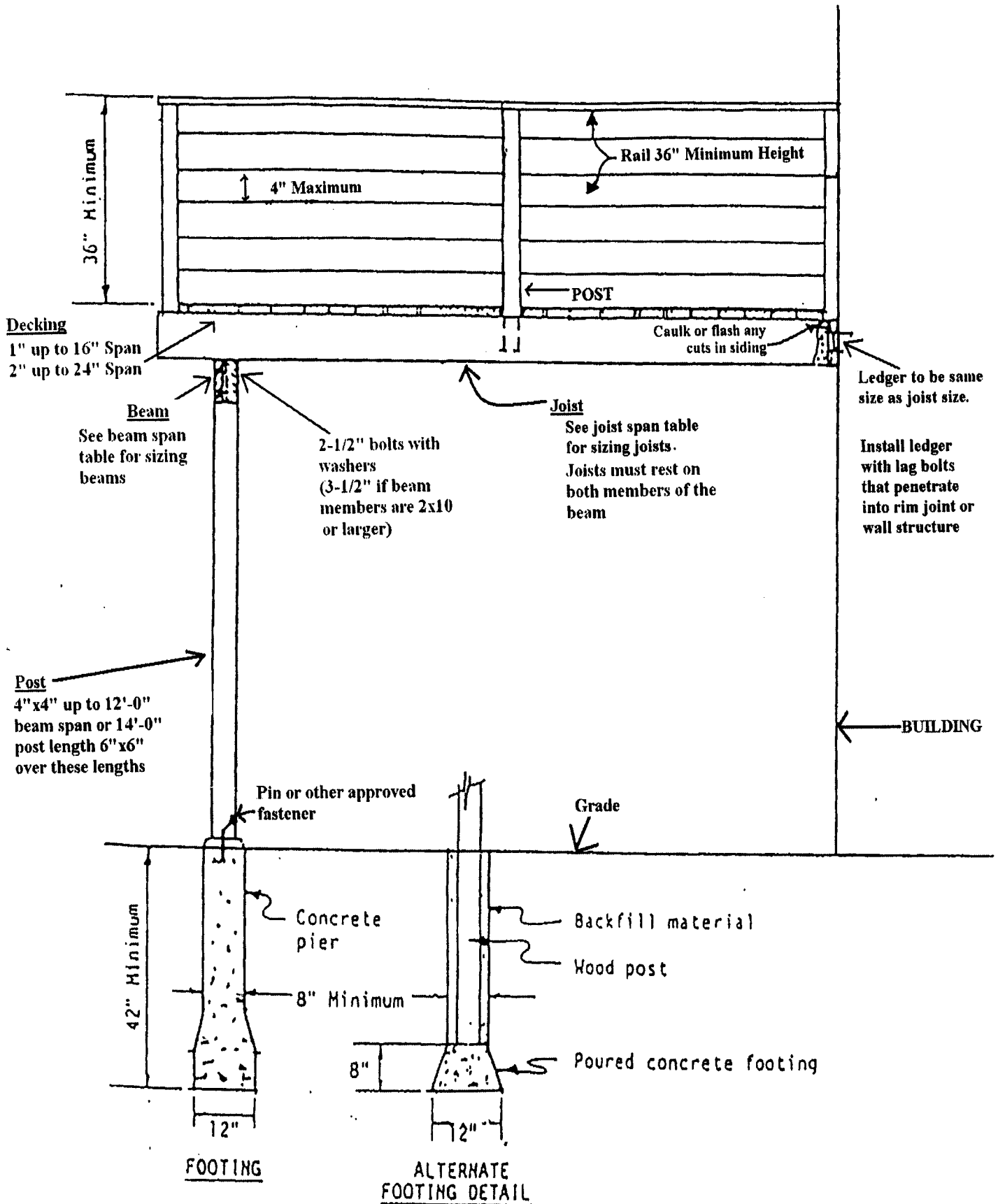
1. INFORMATION NECESSARY WHEN APPLYING FOR BUILDING PERMIT:

a. A site plan will be required to be drawn onto the permit application indicating lot dimensions, location of existing structures, and location and area of proposed structure. Setbacks from property lines and septic system must be indicated.

b. Submit 2 copies of drawings showing proposed designs and materials. Drawings shall include the following information:

1. Proposed deck size
2. Size and spacing of floor joists
3. Size of decking
4. Size, location and spacing of posts
5. Size of beams
6. Type of lumber to be used
7. Height of structure from grade
8. Size and depth of footing
9. Guardrail height and handrails (if any)

TREATED WOOD DECKS



NOTE: ALL MATERIALS USED FOR POSTS, JOISTS, BEAMS, AND DECKING SHALL BE OF APPROVED WOOD OF NATURAL RESISTANCE TO DECAY OR APPROVED TREATED WOOD.