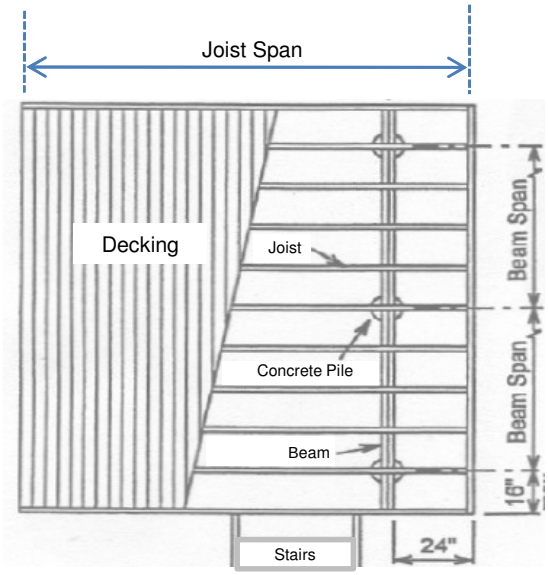
TOWN OF OKOTOKS
DECK GUIDELINES

2025

COMPLETE ALL FILLABLE FIELDS
For the best experience, please use a desktop or laptop computer

Construction within Overland Drainage and Utility Rights-of-Way is not permitted. Please check your Real Property Report for details of any Rights-of-Way that may be registered on your property. CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

(Decks less than 0.61 m (2 ft) above grade do not require a permit but are required to comply with applicable Land Use Regulations)



Deck Width: _____ ft

Deck Length: _____ ft

Deck Height: _____ ft

Deck Framing:
Joist Span: _____ft.

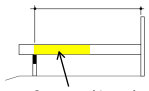
Use table below to determine:
Joist Size: Select
Joist Spacing: Select

2x6			2x8			2x10			2x12		
Maximum Spans (ft-in.)											
Joist Spacing (in.)											
12	*16*	*24*	*12*	*16*	*24*	*12*	*16*	*24*	*12*	*16*	*24*
10-0	9-1	7-11	13-2	11-11	10-1	16-10	15-2	12-4	20-3	17-7	14-4

Canadian Wood Council. (2020). The Span Book: Span tables for Canadian dimension lumber and glued-laminated timber (2020 ed.). Canadian Wood Council. (SPF No. 1/No. 2, Live Load = 39.7 psf)

Beam and Post Design
Use table below to determine:
Beam Size: Select
Number of Plys: Select
Post Spacing **(minimum 140 x140 mm - 6x6 post)**: on centre*(ft-in.)*

Supported Length = Half the distance from home to beam.



	2x6		2x8		2x10		2x12	
Supported Length	2-Ply	3-Ply	2-Ply	3-Ply	2-Ply	3-Ply	2-Ply	3-Ply
4 ft.	8'-0"	9'-2"	10'-3"	12'-1"	12'-6"	15'-4"	14'-6"	17'-9"
6 ft.	6'-10"	8'-0"	8'-4"	10'-3"	10'-2"	12'-6"	11'-10"	14'-6"
8 ft.	5'-11"	7'-3"	7'-2"	8'-10"	8'-9"	10'-9"	10'-2"	12'-6"
10 ft.	5'-3"	6'6"	6'-5"	7'-10"	7'-10"	9'-8"	9'-1"	11'-2"

Max Span *(Post Spacing)*

Canadian Wood Council. (2020). The Span Book: Span tables for Canadian dimension lumber and glued-laminated timber (2020 ed.). Canadian Wood Council. (SPF No. 1/No. 2, Roof Snow Load = 31.1 psf)

Foundation Options: BURIED FOUNDATIONS REQUIRE 1.22 m (4'-0") DEPTH

Concrete Bell Piles

Concrete Pile w/ Footing Pad

Steel Screw Pile
Engineering Req.

Simple Concrete Pile

Precast Concrete Deck Block

Concrete deck blocks can be used for freestanding, ground-level decks that are not attached to the house.

Select Foundation Option:
- ☐ Concrete Bell Piles
- ☐ Concrete Pile with Footing Pad
- ☐ Steel Screw Pile
- ☐ Simple Concrete Pile
- ☐ Precast Concrete Block

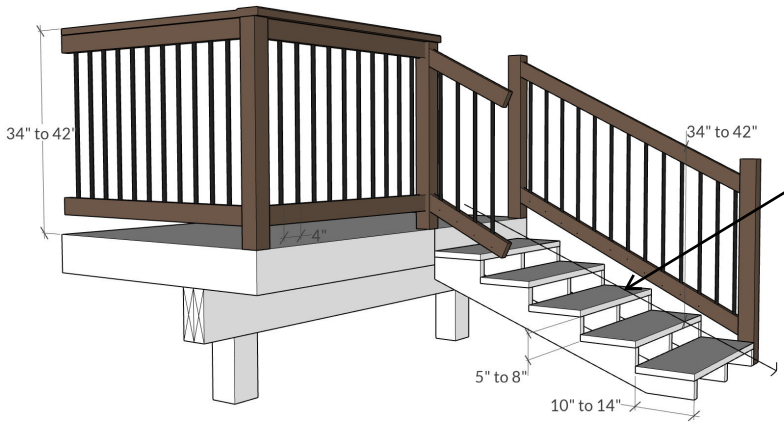
Concrete piers are to be at least 0.25 m (10 inches) diameter. Columns must be anchored to piles to resist uplift.

If screw piles are being used, a site specific engineering report and the CCMC Evaluation Report are required prior to the Town of Okotoks inspection.

Stairs:

Rise - maximum 200 mm (8 inches)
- minimum 125 mm (5 inches)

Run - maximum 355 mm (14 inches)
- minimum 255 mm (10 inches)



Required Handrails:

One Handrail is required on exterior stairs that have more than 3 risers. Handrails shall be 865 mm to 1070 mm (34 to 42 inches) high measured from a line drawn tangent to the tread nosing. (Handrails may be incorporated in design of guard)

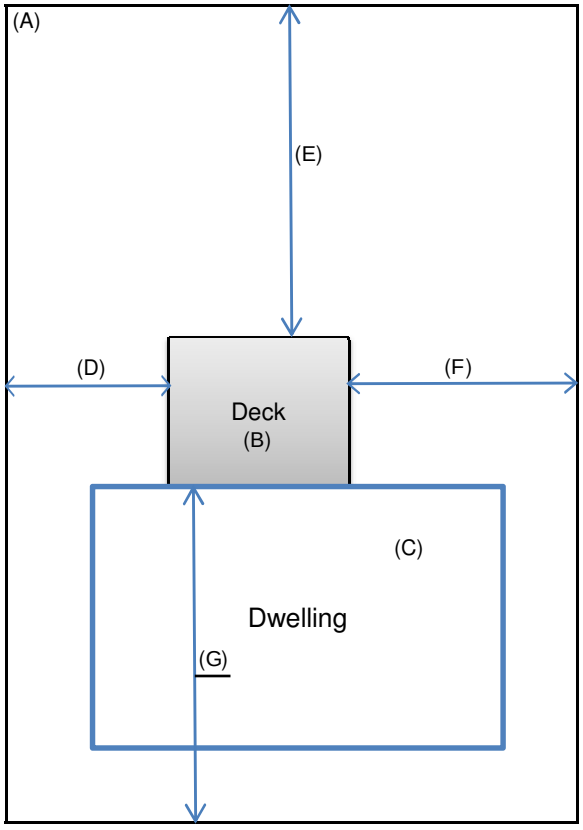
Required Guards:

Height - Where the decking height above the finished ground level is not more than 1800 mm (6ft), deck guards are permitted to be 900 mm (36 inches) tall. For heights greater than 1800 mm, guards shall be 1070 mm (42 inches) tall.
The same shall apply to stair guards and shall be measured from a line drawn through the tread nosing.

Openings in Guards - shall be of a size that prevents the passage of a spherical object having a diameter of 100 mm (4").

Design of Guards to Not Facilitate Climbing - Guards that protect a level located more than 4.2 m (13'-9") above the adjacent level shall be designed so that no member, attachment or opening located between 140 mm and 900 mm (16" to 36") above the level protected by the guard facilitates climbing.

Glass in Railings - shall be safety glazing (laminated or tempered),or wired glass.



A) Lot Size:_____m² Total Lot Coverage: _____ %

B) Deck Size:_____m²

C) All Existing Structures:_____m²

D) Distance to nearest side property line: ____m

E) Distance to rear property line: ____m

F) Distance to furthest side property line: ____m

G) Distance to front property line:____m

$$\frac{\text{Total Lot Coverage (B + C)}}{\text{Lot Size (A)}} \times 100\% = \_\_\_\% \text{ of coverage}$$

Note:

- **Maximum site coverage and building setbacks for decks and other accessory buildings depends on the zoning of the parcel. For a full review of Land Use Requirements, please see www.okotoks.ca**
- If the proposed deck is unenclosed and less than 0.61 m (2ft) above grade, the proposed deck may project into a setback with no limit provided it is located wholly on the site.
- Stairs/Landings may project a maximum of 3 m (9'-10") into any setback provided they are wholly located on the site.
- If your parcel is affected by an overland drainage (swale/other) contact the Town of Okotoks Planning Department.

Building and Placement Standards for Attached Decks in the Traditional Neighbourhood Land Use District

- 3 m (9'-10') w/ rear lane Access or 6 m (19'-8") w/ no rear lane access Setback From Primary Frontage
- 1.2 m (4') Setback From Interior Side Yard Property Line(s)
- 3.0 m (9'-10") Setback from Secondary Frontage (Corner lot) if applicable
- 1.2 m (4') Setback from Rear Property Line

Note the following:

- In some cases a Development Permit may be required through Planning Services before any Safety Code permits are issued. Contact Planning Services at 403-995-2760, planning@okotoks.ca or refer to the Land Use Bylaw at www.okotoks.ca
- A full review of the National Building Code 2023 (Alberta Edition) will be conducted for all deck applications.
- For construction code questions, contact the Safety Codes Officer at permits@okotoks.ca or call 403-995-6304

Optional: Additional Property Specific Info

This guideline may be updated periodically. It has no legal status and cannot be used as an official interpretation of the various bylaws, codes and regulations currently in effect.