

Deck Specifications Worksheet

Use Diagrams 2 and 3 to fill out the table below.

		DIMENSION
A	Height of deck above finished ground	
B	Height of deck guard:	
C	Footing depth below grade for frost protection	
D	Openings in the guard	
E	Distance between posts	
F	Span of floor joist	
G	Cantilever (if applicable)	
H	Column footing size - width and thickness	
J	Beam size	
K	Column Size	
W	Joist size and spacing	
X	Deck width	
Y	Deck length	
Z	Distance between support columns	

Beam (J) sizes and options.

Wood Beam Size	Supported Joist Length of Wood Joists				
	8' - 0"	10' - 0"	12' - 0"	14' - 0"	16' - 0"
	Maximum Span of Wood Beam Between Columns (Z)				
3 - 2" X 8"	8' - 10"	7' - 10"	7' - 2"	6' - 8"	6' - 3"
4 - 2" X 8"	10' - 2"	9' - 1"	8' - 4"	7' - 8"	7' - 2"
3 - 2" X 10"	10' - 9"	9' - 8"	8' - 9"	8' - 2"	7' - 7"
4 - 2" X 10"	12' - 5"	11' - 2"	10' - 2"	9' - 5"	8' - 9"
3 - 2" X 12"	12' - 6"	11' - 2"	10' - 2"	9' - 5"	8' - 10"
4 - 2" X 12"	14' - 5"	12' - 11"	11' - 9"	10' - 11"	10' - 2"

Joist (W) sizes and options.

Lumber Size	Spacing of Joists (W) (on center)	Span (F)	Spacing of joists (W) (on center)	Span (F)
2" X 6"	16"	8' - 11"	12"	9' - 10"
2" X 8"	16"	11' - 5"	12"	12' - 11"
2" X 10"	16"	13' - 11"	12"	16' - 1"
2" X 12"	16"	16' - 2"	12"	18' - 8"

Decks

Frequently Asked Questions

When Are Inspections Required?

You must schedule inspections for:

- Footings
- Final Construction

How Do I Request an Inspection?

Building Official – Marc Buske

Phone: (902) 694-2318

Email: mbuske@amherst.ca

Where Do I Apply?

Town Hall

98 Victoria Street East

Online:

www.amherst.ca/building-permits.html

Some Construction Tips

Footings

- Footings must extend at least 4 feet below grade for frost protection.
- Footings are required for all decks attached to a house.

Guards (Railings)

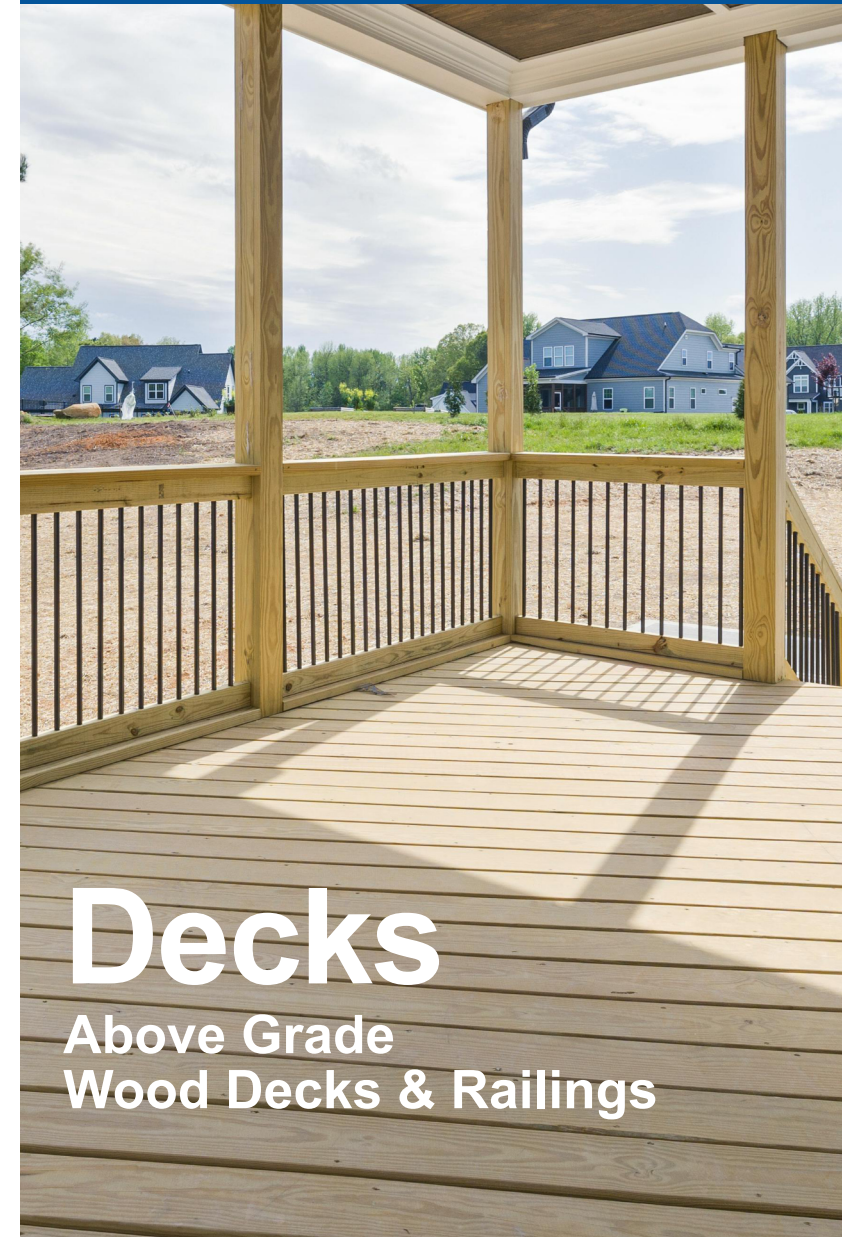
- Guards are required when:
 - Deck height is over 24 inches → Minimum 36-inch guard
 - Deck height is over 6 feet → Minimum 42-inch guard
- Maximum guard opening: 4 inches



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Planning & Economic Development



Decks

Above Grade Wood Decks & Railings



Building a Deck in Amherst

Permit Requirements & Construction Guide

This guide explains how to apply for a permit and outlines the basic construction requirements for building a residential deck in the town of Amherst.

This pamphlet is intended for homeowners and contractors planning to build:

- Attached decks
- Freestanding decks
- Decks with stairs or guards (railings)

This guide helps you:

- Understand when a permit is required
- Learn what drawings and information you must submit
- Follow minimum construction standards
- Schedule required inspections

Do I Need a Permit?

Yes. A permit is required to construct or alter a deck in the town of Amherst.

Deck Construction Process

1. Design your deck
2. Prepare your site plan and construction drawings
3. Submit your permit application
4. Receive Development Permit
5. Build your deck
6. Schedule required inspections

Disclaimer

This pamphlet is intended as a general guide only. Property owners and contractors are responsible for ensuring compliance with Provincial and Federal regulations.

Permit Application Requirements

What Do I Need To Apply?

1. Building Permit Application
2. Site Plan (Shows where your deck will be located on your property)
3. Construction Drawing (Shows how your deck will be built)

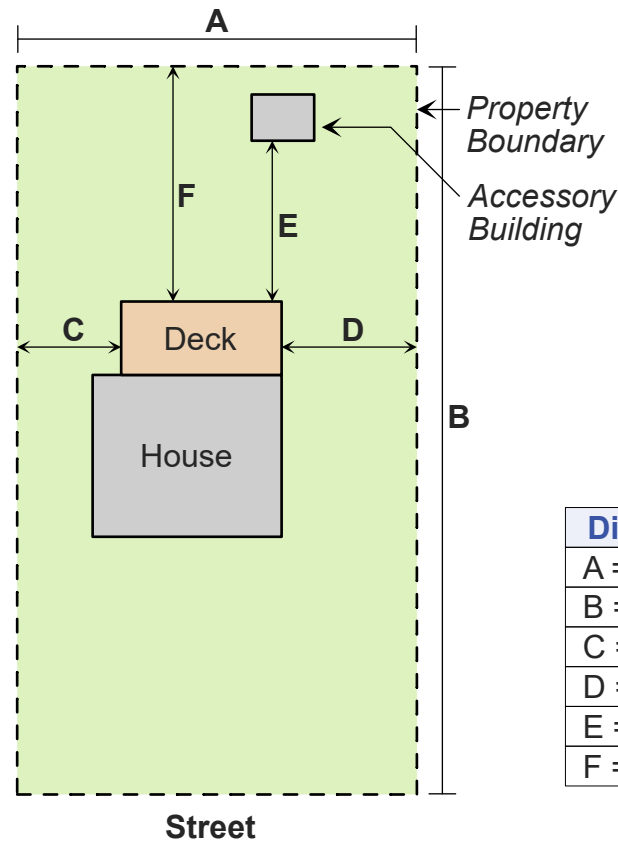
Application Fee

- \$50.00 + \$0.04 per square foot

Use Diagram 1 below as a guide for Site Plan.

**Example Site Plan (Not to Scale)*

Diagram 1



Dimensions
A =
B =
C =
D =
E =
F =

Construction Drawing Requirements

Your drawings must include:

- Deck height above ground
- Footing depth and size
- Beam size
 - Joist size and spacing
- Column size
 - Guard and stair details
- Overall deck length and width

Use Diagrams 2 and 3 as a guide for Construction Drawings.

Note: Attached decks require footing (C).

Diagram 2

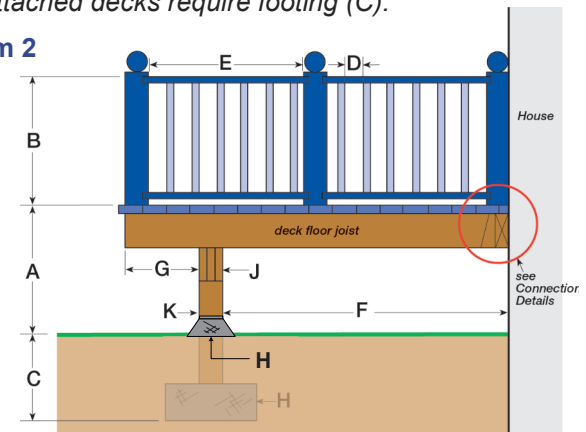


Diagram 3

