

# Deck Permit Guidelines



A deck is considered an unroofed platform which projects from the outer wall of a building and is attached to the ground.

A permit is required from the City of Grimes before the construction or alteration of any deck.

The price of a deck permit is \$20.

## INSPECTIONS

An inspection is required for footings and when the structure is complete.

Inspections must be scheduled at least 24 hours in advance.



City of Grimes

Development Services

Department

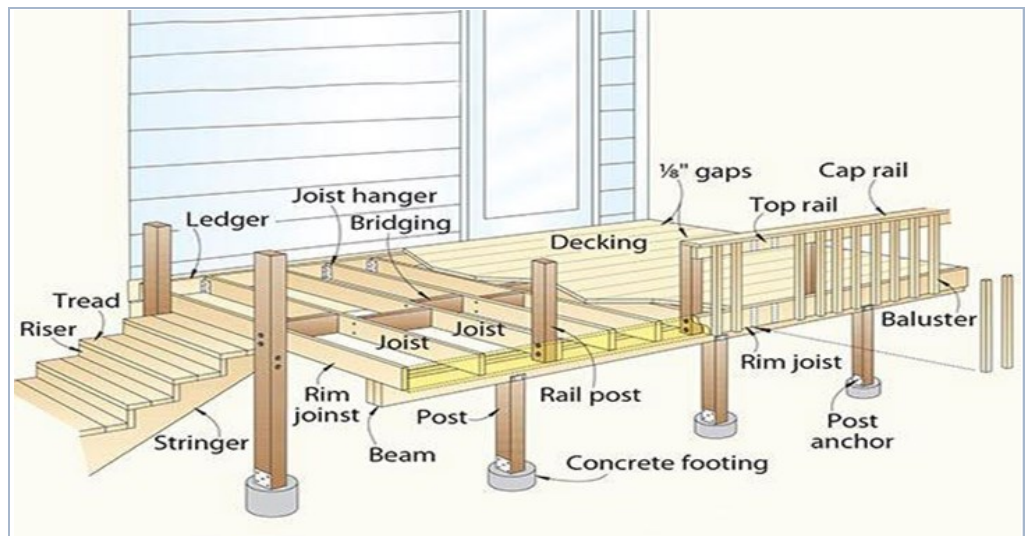
410 SE Main St. Ste. 102

Grimes, IA 50111

Phone: 515.986.4050

Fax: 515.986.4480

1. A deck is NOT permitted to encroach over or otherwise impede an easement on file with the applicable county recorder.
2. Footings shall be a minimum 42" below grade.
3. All deck materials shall be approved decay-resistant species.
4. Decks must have a ledger board (minimum 2x8) fastened directly to the band joist. Siding must be removed behind ledger boards and ledger boards must be appropriately flashed and sealed.
5. 1/2" diameter (min.) lag screws or bolts, with washers, spaced at 2 screws or bolts every 16" O.C. must be used for attaching ledger boards. Other listed fasteners approved for this application will be accepted. All fasteners shall be listed for the application.
6. Embed posts in the concrete footing or attach with approved connectors.
7. Post to beam attachment shall be let into post. If not let into post the connection will require 2 - 5/8" diameter (min.) through bolts with washers. Fasteners shall be listed for the application.
8. Maximum cantilevers on the beams is 2' past posts. Maximum cantilevers on deck joists is 3' when joists are 2x8 and larger.
9. Guardrails are required if deck height is 30" or more measured at any point within 36" horizontally from the edge of deck surface. If guardrails are required, they must be a minimum 36" tall from deck platform to top of rail and they must have intermediate railings or an ornamental pattern such that a sphere 4" diameter cannot pass through.
10. Stairs must meet 7 3/4" maximum finished riser height on all risers. (Including riser down to finished grade) Minimum tread depth is 10" and a nosing shall be provided of not less than 3/4", but not more than 1 1/4" on deck stairs with solid risers.
11. Maximum stringer span is 9' with 3 stringers. Any span greater than this requires additional post support midway through span.
12. Handrails are required on deck stairs with 4 or more risers or top of deck is 30" above grade. Handrails shall be 34"-38" above sloped plane adjoining the tread nosing.
13. Handrails installed due to top of deck being 30" or more above finished grade must have intermediate railings or an ornamental pattern such that a 4 3/8" diameter sphere cannot pass through.



**Call Before You Dig!**  
**1-800-292-8989**

Notification service for locating underground



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## Plan Review Submittal Checklist for Decks

- \_\_\_\_\_ Sketch the deck surface area as accurate as possible; this includes deck stairs. Please include dimensions and show the house walls that may be impacted by the deck construction. Please label all house cantilevers that may be present along the house walls.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Show the dimensions from side yard and rear yard property lines to the new deck.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Indicate the anticipated dimension the deck surface will be above average grade.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sketch all footing locations and indicate footing diameters. Also indicate the distance between footings where the beams will span.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sketch or write a description of the post sizing. i.e., 4x4, 6x6
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sketch or write a description of what lumber sizes will be utilized for the beams and deck joists. i.e., 2x8, 2x10
- \_\_\_\_\_ Indicate the distance for the joist span. This is the typical distance between the house ledger board and the supporting beam.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Indicate the joist spacing. i.e., 16" OC, 24" OC
- \_\_\_\_\_ Indicate what type of decking will be used. i.e., cedar, green treated, composite
- \_\_\_\_\_ If a guard rail will be installed, sketch or write a description of the guard rail assembly. i.e., 4x4 cedar posts with 2x4 rails and metal balusters spaced less than 4" OC, metal rail assembly with cable runners tensioned so the spacing is less than 4" OC.

# Deck Permit Info Required

-A drawing shall be provided showing the following: (see example below)

- a. An outline of the house
- b. Property Lines
- c. Proposed location of the deck
- d. Measurements of proposed deck
- e. Height of deck
- f. Distance from property lines
- g. show any easements on the property

