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# CITY OF ALTOONA



Rebecca M. Brown  
Director

## DEPARTMENT OF CODES AND INSPECTIONS

### DECKS

Please read all of the following information. You must have a "checkmark" in all the sections listed below prior to submitting your application.

- \_\_\_\_\_ A site plan showing the proposed deck, the width and length of the deck, the distances in feet, to the front, sides, rear property lines, and the height of floor surface above grade at highest point.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Three (3) sets of construction drawings that show in detail code compliance for all of the work proposed, to include but not limited to the following information;
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Floor joist size, species and grade of wood.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Floor joist spacing (16" or center, 24" on center etc:).
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Span of floor joist (clear distance between supports).
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Attachment to existing structure (bolts or lags, with sizes and spacing).
    - Ledger shall not be supported on brick or stone veneer.
    - Flashing detail.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Depth of post footing below finished grade. (shall be below frost line).
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Guardrail height from floor of deck, (36" minimum)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Guardrail on stairs (34" minimum measured vertically from nose of tread).
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Spacing of balusters. (maximum 4").
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Stairs — Riser height and tread depth. (Rise 8 1/4" maximum depth 9" minimum).
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Stairs — Handrail height (from nose of tread, minimum 34", maximum 38").
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Handrail grip size — if circular must have a cross section of 1 1/4" minimum to 2" maximum.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Width of stairs (36" minimum)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Lateral bracing detail.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Please refer to (AWC DCA 2015 — deck guide — 1804.pdf) for wood deck design.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Completed building permit application.

MDIA will review plans submitted to determine code compliance. If the minimum submittal requirements are not met, we will ask the applicant to supply additional information. If the minimum requirements are met, the plans will be marked "approved". A building permit will be issued and the applicant will be notified of the inspection fees and when they can pick-up the permit at City Hall. All fees shall be paid prior to the issuance of the permit. Then use the inspection procedures provided to have all of the required inspections performed.

## INSPECTION PROCEDURES DECKS

- Building permit must be posted on the site of the work and clearly visible from the road until completion of the project.
- Your approved plans must be available at all times for inspections. These are the plans that were submitted with your application and were marked "Approved" by the Building Inspection Agency.
- The permit applicant or authorized agent is responsible for scheduling all inspections.
- To schedule an inspection call the inspector listed below.
- DO NOT schedule an inspection if the work is not ready!!!!
- When scheduling an inspection, you must supply your permit number and phone number to the inspector.

**PLEASE GIVE THREE (3) WORKING DAYS ADVANCE NOTICE**  
**FOOTING INSPECTION WILL BE GIVEN PRIORITY**

1. Footing Inspection — Holes must be dug for support posts below frost line. The inspection must be approved prior to placing of concrete.
2. Framing Inspection — At the time of inspection all framing members must be visible. Such as floor joists, joist hangers, attachment to dwelling. (lag bolts etc.)
3. Electrical if applicable
4. Final inspection — All railings, steps, handrails, guardrails, and decking shall be completed. Inspections #2, #3 and #4 may be conducted at the same time, if all portions of the framing and electrical installation are visible upon completion of the deck.

**BEFORE DIGGING CALL 811**

*Questions? Call the City Codes and Inspections Office – 814-949-2456*