



## Building a Deck

November 2017

This bulletin is designed to help you build a deck to comply with the building codes. Informational bulletins should not be used as substitutes for actual codes. Contact the Code Administration Division at 307-721-5271 if you have additional questions or need detailed information.

### **1. A building permit is required. Submit application, a set of plans and specifications for review.**

Plans must be drawn to scale and must meet the general standards for plans and drawings set by the City of Laramie. The plans must at least show the following information:

- Site plan of the entire lot including existing buildings, the proposed location of the new deck or patio, with dimensions to each property line. Setbacks apply to decks according to the zoning district in which they are located. Contact the code administration division for information concerning setbacks. Setback dimensions must be shown between the property line and closest part of the deck. Do not measure from the sidewalk or street.
- A structural plan showing the deck materials from the lowest point of the footing to the highest point of the work (handrail or roof), including the size of the framing materials, species of wood, spans, and the footing design. Commercial decks may require a structural design by a Wyoming registered professional engineer or architect.
- A detail of the connection to the existing building, including fasteners and hangers.

### **2. Plans are reviewed for code compliance.**

The time frame for this process depends on the number of plans pending review at the time of application. Plans are reviewed in the order they are received.

- A building permit is required before beginning any work. An application form and fee schedules are available at 405 Grand Avenue, or at [www.cityoflaramie.org](http://www.cityoflaramie.org).

### **3. Deck construction must comply with the International Residential Code or International Building Code, depending on the specific application.**

A detailed residential wood deck guide is available from the American Forest and Paper Association, Inc., at:

<http://www.awc.org/Publications/DCA/DCA6/DCA6.pdf>

Notes:

Piers shall be 42" minimum-below frost depth.

Stairway Notes:

1. Stairways shall be not less than 36" in width.
2. Stairway rises shall be not greater the 7 ¾".
3. Stairway treads shall have a minimum run of 10".
4. The length of Run and the height of Riser shall not vary more than 3/8" in the entire run of the stair.
5. Open risers permitted if opening is less than 4".
6. A nosing not less than ¾" but not more than 1 ¼" shall be provided on stairways with solid risers and less than 11".
7. Composite materials (example: Trex) may require 4 or more stringers. Follow manufactures instructions for all sub-structures.

Handrail Notes:

1. Handrails shall be continuous on at least one side of stairs with 4 or more risers.
2. Top of handrails shall be placed not less the 34" nor more than 38" above stair nosing.
3. The handgrip portion of handrails shall be not less than 1 ¼" nor more than 2 ¼" in cross section for non-circular handrails.
4. Handrails shall be placed not less than 1 ½" from any wall or other surface.
5. Handrails to be returned to wall, post or safely terminal per IRC 311.7.8.2.
6. Guards shall comply with IRC Section R312.