



MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY

Department of Labor and Industry Construction Codes and Licensing Division

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St. Paul, MN 55155

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The State of Minnesota adopts a set of construction standards known as the Minnesota State Building Codes (MSBC). The MSBC contains safety requirements relating to structure, mechanical, plumbing, energy, electrical, elevators, manufactured buildings and life safety.

The information in this brochure is for general reference for residential construction projects. Contact your municipal building official regarding permits and specific code requirements for residential construction within your community.

To confirm if your contractor is licensed in Minnesota contact the:

Department of Labor and Industry
Residential Building Contractors
Phone: (651) 284-5065 or 1-800-657-3944
www.doli.state.mn.us/contractor.html
E-mail: DLI.Contractor@state.mn.us

www.doli.state.mn.us
www.mncodes.org

GI012 1-07



Gopher State One Call

Call at least two full business
days before you dig.

Phone: (651) 454-0002 or 1-800-252-1166
www.gopherstateonecall.org

DECKS

*Guidelines for planning
the construction
of a deck.*



Permits

Building permits are required for all decks that are attached to the home or are 30 inches or more above grade. Decks and platforms not more than 30 inches above adjacent grade and not attached to a structure with frost footings, do not require a building permit and may require a zoning or land-use permit.

Decks and platforms are required to meet the land-use requirements of the community's zoning code. Zoning questions should be directed to the local planning and zoning department. This is an important first step in the planning of any deck project.

Possible permit fees, plan reviews and inspections required by a municipality

Permit fees are established by the municipality. The plan review is done by the building official in order to spot potential problems or pitfalls that may arise. The building official may make notes on the plan for your use. Inspections are performed at various stages of construction to verify code compliance. Actual permit costs can be obtained by calling your local building inspection department with your estimated construction value.

Your building inspector will need:

1. An application for permit.
2. A site plan or survey.
3. A deck plan with all applicable structural details.

Required inspections

1. **Footings:** After the holes are dug, **but prior to pouring of concrete!**
2. **Framing:** To be made after framing is completed. This inspection can be completed at the time of the final inspection if all parts of the framing will be visible and accessible with prior approval of the building official.
3. **Final:** To be made upon completion of the deck.

Setbacks from property lines vary depending upon the city and zoning district your home is located in. Contact the building department in your community for the requirements in your location. This is an important first step in the planning for any deck project.

Notice regarding pressure-treated wood

Chromated copper arsenate (CCA) is a chemical wood preservative containing chromium, copper and arsenic. CCA is used in pressure-treated wood to protect wood from rotting due to insects and microbial agents.

Effective Dec. 31, 2003, no wood treater or manufacturer may treat wood with CCA for residential uses, with certain exceptions. Designers, builders and home owners need to pay particular attention to the grade marks on the lumber and verify that proper hardware (hangers, nails, brackets) are appropriate with the particular treatment of the lumber. This not only applies to decks utilizing these products, but sill plates and posts as well. Particular attention should also be made to the manufacturer's installation instructions for the hardware. Additional information is available online at www.doli.state.mn.us/bc_residential.html.

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