



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND INSPECTIONS
375 JACKSON STREET, SUITE 220
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101-1806
Phone: 651-266-8989 Fax: 651-266-9124
Visit our Web Site at www.stpaul.gov/dsi

Decks

BUILDING PERMITS are required for decks and platforms. EXCEPTION: Decks and platforms not more than 30 inches above grade, not attached to a structure with frost footings and which is not part of an accessible route do not require a building permit. Zoning regulations including setbacks must be met for decks more than 24 inches above grade even if it does not require a building permit. Decks located in Historic Districts require approval from the Heritage Preservation Commission.

PLANS- Please provide:

1. Site Plan (overhead view of the property) showing location of house and deck and distances to property lines. A survey or corner stakes may be required at the time of the inspection. NOTE: If the deck is less than 24 inches above grade, it is considered landscaping and may be up to but not on or over the property line(s)
2. Framing Plan which shows the size of the deck, direction(s) of floor joists and location of support posts and beams. (See the attached deck plan)
3. Cross-section (or side view) of the deck showing joist, beam and footing sizes. (See the attached cross-section)

FROST FOOTINGS are required for any deck that is attached to a dwelling or a garage that has frost footings. Minimum footing depth is 3' - 6" (42 inches).

GUARDS (GUARDRAILS) - All decks that are 30" or more above grade must be protected by a guardrail. Such rail shall be 36" minimum in height for 1- and 2-family dwellings and 42" for decks or balconies of multi-family residential buildings. Required guards shall not have openings from the walking surface to the required guard height which allow passage of a sphere 4 inches in diameter (4 3/8 inches at open sides of stairs). NOTE: The triangular opening at the open side of stair, formed by the riser, tread and bottom rail of a guard, shall not allow passage of a sphere 6 inches in diameter.

CANTILEVERS - Joists should generally not overhang beams by more than two feet, nor should beams overhang posts by more than one foot. (See attached deck plan)

LIVE LOAD - All decks shall be designed to support a live load of 40 pounds per square foot.

FLASHING - All connections between deck and dwelling shall be weatherproof. Any cuts in exterior finish shall be flashed or caulked.

JOIST HANGERS - Header joists more than six feet long and tail joists over 12 feet long shall be supported by approved framing anchors such as joist hangers.

WOOD REQUIRED - All exposed wood used in the construction of decks is required to be wood with natural resistance to decay (such as redwood or western cedars, etc.) or approved treated wood. This includes posts, beams, joists, decking, and railings.

SPECIAL DESIGN NOTE - Some deck designs may not be structurally appropriate should the placement of a screen porch or 3-season porch on the deck platform be a future consideration. Please inform the Plan Examiners if a future addition is planned for the deck and they can assist with design information and properly record this fact for the future. Porch setback requirements are not the same as deck setbacks.



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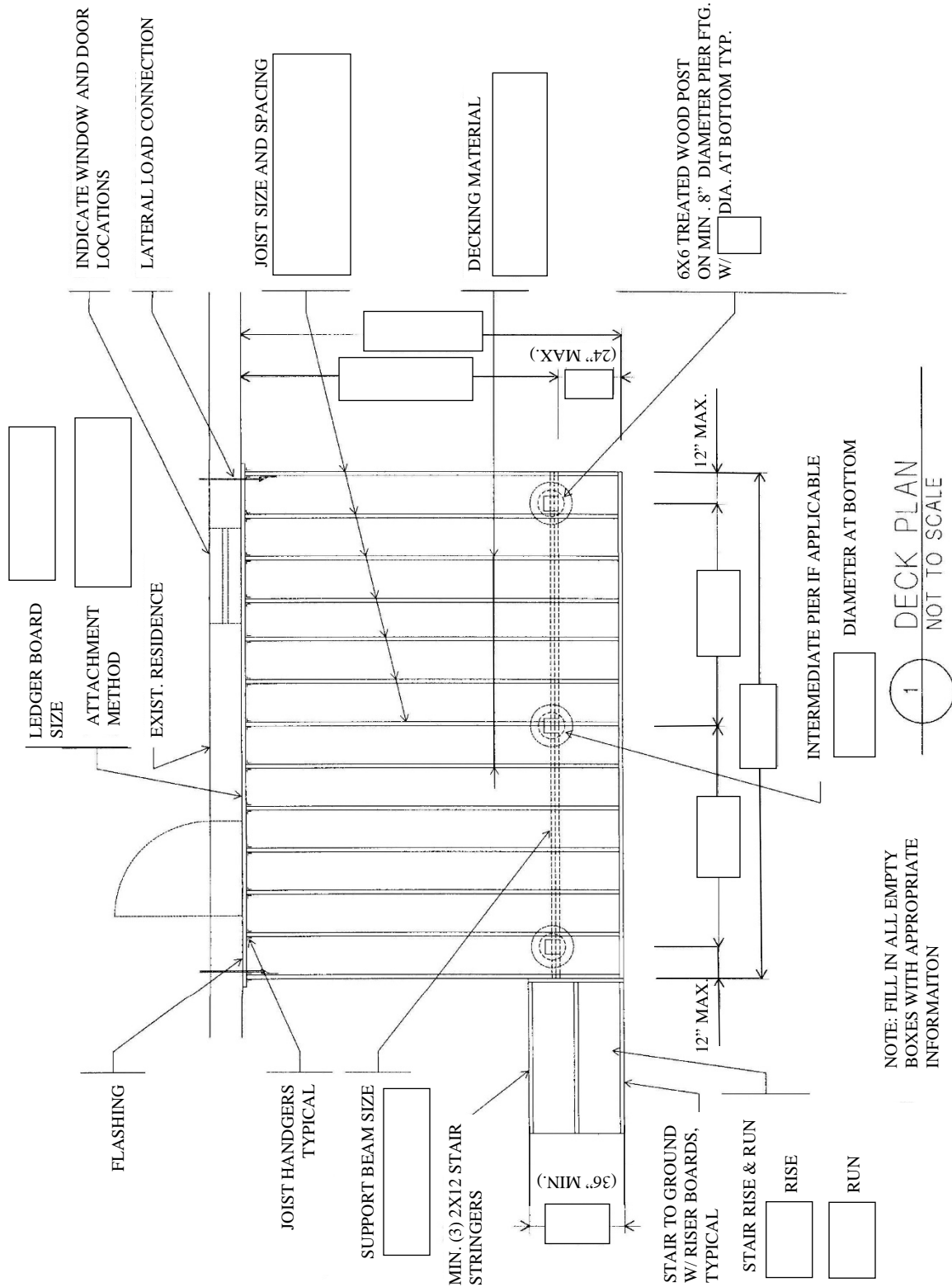
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Decks: Sample Plans



NOTE: FILL IN ALL EMPTY BOXES WITH APPROPRIATE INFORMATION

1 DECK PLAN
NOT TO SCALE



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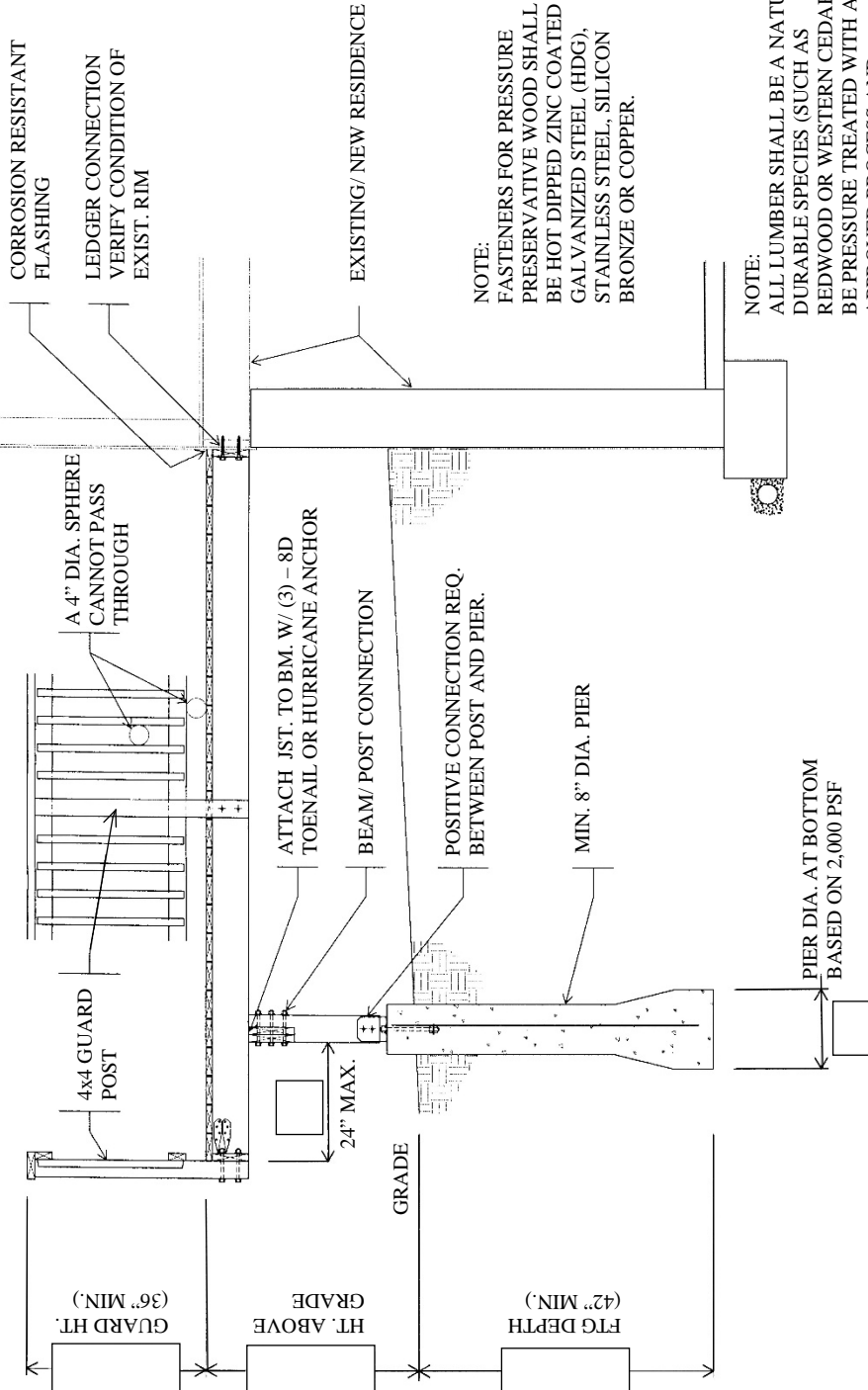
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NOTE:
GUARDS ARE REQ. FOR
DECKS W/ SURFACES
LOCATED MORE THAN 30"
ABOVE GRADE



NOTE:
FASTENERS FOR PRESSURE
PRESERVATIVE WOOD SHALL
BE HOT DIPPED ZINC COATED
GALVANIZED STEEL (HDG),
STAINLESS STEEL, SILICON
BRONZE OR COPPER.

NOTE:
ALL LUMBER SHALL BE A NATURALLY
DURABLE SPECIES (SUCH AS
REDWOOD OR WESTERN CEDARS) OR
BE PRESURE TREATED WITH AN
APPROVED PROCESS AND
PRESERVATIVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH
AMERICAN WOOD PROTECTION
ASSOCIATION STANDARDS. ALL
LUMBER IN CONTACT WITH THE
GROUND SHALL BE APPROVED
PRESERVATIVE TREATED WOOD
SUITABLE FOR GROUND CONTACT.

NOTE:
FILL IN ALL BOXES

2 DECK SECTION -
NOT TO SCALE

HT. ABOVE GRADE

HT. ABOVE GRADE (36" MIN.)

FTG DEPTH (42" MIN.)

GRADE