


## Commercial intro

- USP, starting as TECO in 1933, the Original connector company, now owned by MiTek, a Berkshire Hathaway Co. and the leader in whole house design software and truss and component fabrication machinery wants you to turn to us for solutions for single and multi-family structures from free deck design software, to beams, shear walls and All Thrd. rod systems for hi wind and seismic areas.

## All You need to write down

- [www.USPconnectors.com](http://www.USPconnectors.com)
- [Rholgate@mii.com](mailto:Rholgate@mii.com)
- 770-362-9288

  
Residential Deck Construction  
USP502  
Randall Holgate  
10/30/13

## Notes to Designers and Bldg. Officials

- Please be aware that this course has been created to provide continuing education to a broad spectrum of architects, engineers, building designers and building officials and inspectors.
- Some states and enforcement jurisdictions have adopted amendments to ICC codes referenced here that address more stringent construction practices or local practices wherein the municipality has intimate knowledge and has incorporated that into the local code.
- USP urges caution to contact local code agencies for exact codes with amendments in effect for the construction site.

Credit(s) earned on completion of this course will be reported to AIA CES for AIA members. Certificates of Completion for both AIA members and non-AIA members are available upon request.

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Questions related to specific materials, methods, and services will be addressed at the conclusion of this presentation.

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Course  
Description

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This course covers a brief overview of the structural code requirements of International Residential Code® (IRC) for residential wood deck construction. Learn about the code, design requirements, and good industry practice recommendations




Learning  
Objectives

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At the end of this course, participants will be able to:

1. Recognize how decks live in a tough environment and detailing is critical
2. Learn code specific loads that apply to a deck
3. Choosing the correct connection for each section of a deck
4. Fastener and connector selection, load capacity and corrosion issues



**Residential Decks**

*Why worry about decks?*

- #1) Very common building elements.
- #2) Often built by often homeowners.
- #3) Includes technically challenging details.
- #4) Exposed to brunt of the weather for the life of the structure.
- #5) Failures are very high profile – often with injuries- even death.

**Residential Decks**

- Statistics\*
  - 40, 000,000 decks in the US over 20 years old
    - If just 1% unsafe, 40,000 potential problems
  - 2000 – 2006 Deck Related Incidents
    - 30 deaths
    - 350 injuries
    - 75% of persons involved in a deck collapse likely to be killed or injured

\*Source North American Deck and Railing Association

**Deck Statistics**

*“Decks cause more injuries and loss of life than any other part of the home structure. Except for hurricanes and tornadoes, more injuries may be connected to deck failures than all other wood building components and loading cases combined.”*

-Don Bender, Director of Wood Materials and Engineering Laboratory at Washington State University

**Residential Decks**

Picture of homeowner building deck.



## Residential Decks

Decks live in a tough environment



## Pressure Treated Lumber

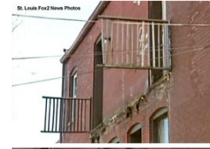
- **UC3B ABOVE GROUND Exposed** -- Wood and wood based materials used in exterior construction and not in contact with the ground. Materials do not require an exterior coating, but may be finished to achieve a desired aesthetic appearance. Materials are used for a variety of applications in either horizontal and vertical positions such as **decking**, sills, walkways, **railings** and **fence pickets**
- **UC4A GROUND CONTACT General Use** -- Wood and wood-based materials used in contact with the ground, fresh water, or other situations favorable to deterioration. Examples are fence posts, **deck posts**, guardrail posts, structural lumber, timbers and utility poles located in regions of low natural potential for wood decay and insect attack.

## Not Pressure Treated



## Deck Safety

### Failures



## Deck Safety

What is a Deck.



## Deck Safety

When do I have to get a building permit?

### **R105.2 Work exempt from permit.**

Permits shall not be required for the following. *Exemption from permit requirements of this code shall not be deemed to grant authorization for any work to be done in any manner in violation of the provisions of this code or any other laws or ordinances of this jurisdiction.*

### **Building:**

10. Decks not exceeding 200 square feet in area, that are not more than 30 inches above grade at any point, are not attached to a dwelling and do not serve the exit door required by Section R311.4.

## Deck Safety

Deck near grade.

## Deck Construction

Materials used in the construction of a deck

**Wood, Plastic and Metal**

## Deck Construction

Structural Lumber for outdoor durability

AWPA Use Category	Service Conditions	Use Environment	Example Applications	Preservatives and Retentions <sup>1,2</sup>
UC1	Interior construction, Above ground, Dry	Continuously protected from weather or other sources of moisture	General framing, interior construction	Untreated
UC2	Interior construction, Above ground, Damp	Protected from weather, but may be subject to sources of moisture	Sill plates	SBX-DOT, Organic ACQ-D (0.25), CA-B (0.10), CA-C (0.06), MCO (0.25), $\mu$ CA-C (0.05)
UC3A	Exterior construction, Above ground, Rapid water runoff	Exposed to all weather cycles, not exposed to prolonged wetting	Exposed exterior beams or columns in an open, covered structure	ACQ-D (0.25), MCO (0.25), CA-B (0.10), CA-C (0.06), $\mu$ CA-C (0.05), Organic
UC3B	Exterior construction, Above ground, Poor water runoff	Exposed to all weather cycles, including prolonged wetting	Deck beams and joists	ACQ-D (0.25), MCO (0.25), CA-B (0.10), CA-C (0.06), $\mu$ CA-C (0.05), Organic
UC4A	Exterior construction, Ground contact, General use	Ground contact or fresh water exposed to all weather cycles	Deck posts	ACQ-D (0.40), MCO (0.40), CA-B (0.21), CA-C (0.15), $\mu$ CA-C (0.14)
UC4B	Exterior construction, Ground contact, Critical structural	Ground contact, fresh or salt water exposed to all weather cycles	Permanent wood foundations, critical structural members	ACQ-D (0.60), MCO (0.60), CA-B (0.31), CA-C (0.25), $\mu$ CA-C (0.23)

## Deck Construction

Naturally decay resistive species of lumber:

The USDA Forest Products Laboratory “Wood Handbook”, lists heartwood of the following species as “Resistant or very resistant” to decay:

Bald cypress (old growth only)	Black locust	Post oak
Catalpa	Mesquite	White oak
Cedars Red	Mulberry	Osage orange
Black cherry	Bur oak	Redwood
Chestnut	Chestnut oak	Sassafras
Arizona cypress	Gambel oak	Black walnut
Junipers	Oregon white oak	Pacific yew

## Deck Construction

**R507.3 Wood/plastic composites.**

Wood/plastic composites used in exterior deck boards, stair treads, handrails and guardrail systems *shall bear a label* indicating the required performance levels and demonstrating compliance with the provisions of ASTM D 7032.

**R507.3.1 Installation of wood/plastic composites.**

Wood/plastic composites shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.

## Deck Construction

**R507.3 Wood/plastic composites.**

Wood/plastic composites used in exterior deck boards, stair treads, handrails and guardrail systems shall bear a label indicating the required performance levels and demonstrating compliance with the provisions of ASTM D 7032.

## Deck Construction

### R317.3.1 Fasteners for preservative-treated wood.

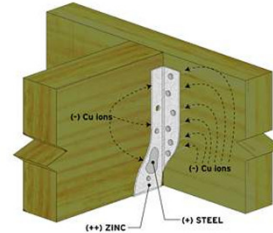
Fasteners, including nuts and washers, for preservative-treated wood shall be of hot-dipped, zinc-coated galvanized steel, stainless steel, silicon bronze or copper. Coating types and weights for connectors in contact with preservative-treated wood shall be in accordance with the connector manufacturer's recommendations. In the absence of manufacturer's recommendations, a minimum of ASTM A 653 type G185 zinc-coated galvanized steel, or equivalent, shall be used.

#### Exceptions:

1. One-half-inch-diameter (12.7 mm) or greater steel bolts.
2. Fasteners other than nails shall be permitted to be of mechanically deposited zinc-coated steel with coating weights in accordance with ASTM B 695, Class 55 minimum.

## Deck Safety

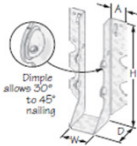
### Connector Corrosion



## Deck Safety

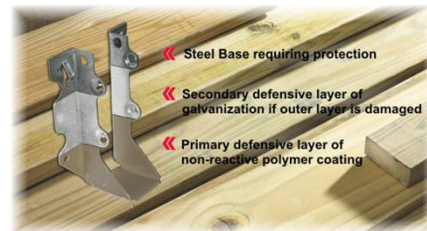
### G-185

Heavy Galvanizing  
Conventional Hangers



## Deck Safety

### Organic Polymer Coating



## Deck Safety

**Stainless Steel**  
Maximum Corrosion  
Resistance



**STAINLESS STEEL**

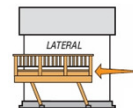
## Deck Design Loads

> Decks are subject to multiple forces (loads)

> Gravity



> Lateral



> Uplift



## Deck Design Loads

**TABLE R301.5**  
**MINIMUM UNIFORMLY DISTRIBUTED LIVE LOADS**  
(in pounds per square foot)

USE	LIVE LOAD
Unhabitable attics without storage <sup>a</sup>	10
Unhabitable attics with limited storage <sup>a, b</sup>	20
Habitable attics and attics served with fixed stairs	30
Balconies (exterior) and decks <sup>c</sup>	40
Fire escapes	40
Guardrails and handrails <sup>d</sup>	200 <sup>e</sup>
Guardrail in-fill components <sup>f</sup>	50 <sup>g</sup>
Passenger vehicle garages <sup>h</sup>	50 <sup>a</sup>
Rooms other than sleeping room	40
Sleeping rooms	30
Stairs	40 <sup>c</sup>

For SI: 1 pound per square foot = 0.0479 kPa; 1 square foot = 0.093 m<sup>2</sup>; 1 pound = 4.45 N.

a. One-foot square joists shall be capable of supporting a 2,000-pound load applied over a 20-square-inch area.

b. Unhabitable attic, partial storage area where the maximum clear height between joists and ceiling is less than 42 inches, or where there are no rafters or more adjacent trusses with web configurations capable of accommodating an assumed rectangle 42 inches high by 24 inches in width, or greater, within the plane of the trusses. This live load need not be assumed to act concurrently with any other live load requirement.

c. Individual stair treads shall be designed for the uniformly distributed live load or a 300-pound concentrated load acting over an area of 4 square inches, whichever produces the greater stresses.

d. A single concentrated load applied in any direction at any point along the top.

e. See Section R502.2.2 for decks attached to exterior walls.

f. Guard-in-fill components (all those except the handrail, balusters and panel fillers) shall be designed to withstand a horizontally applied normal load of 50 pounds on an area equal to 1 square foot. This load shall be assumed to act concurrently with any other live load requirement.

g. Unhabitable attics with limited storage as those where the maximum clear height between joists and ceiling is 42 inches or greater, or where there are two or more adjacent trusses with web configurations capable of accommodating an assumed rectangle 42 inches in height by 24 inches in width, or greater, within the plane of the trusses.

h. This live load need only be applied to those portions of the joists or truss bottom chords where all of the following conditions are met:

1. The deck area is continuous from an existing deck to a depth of 20 inches in length that is parallel to the deck height in the attic, a minimum of 30 inches.
2. The square of the joist or truss bottom chord is at least four times the square of the deck height.
3. Required insulation depth is less than the joist or truss bottom chord member depth.

The remaining portions of the joists or truss bottom chords shall be designed for a uniformly distributed normal load of not less than 10 psf.

i. Glazing used in handrail assemblies and guards shall be designed with a safety factor of 4. The safety factor shall be applied to each of the concentrated loads applied to the top of the rail, and to the load on the in-fill components. These loads shall be determined independent of one another, and loads are assumed not to occur with any other live load.

## Deck Design Loads

Portion of Table R301.5

Habitable attics and attics served with fixed stairs	30
Balconies (exterior) and decks <sup>e</sup>	40
Fire escapes	40
Guardrails and handrails <sup>d</sup>	200 <sup>h</sup>
Guardrail in-fill components <sup>f</sup>	50 <sup>h</sup>
Passenger vehicle garages <sup>a</sup>	50 <sup>a</sup>
Rooms other than sleeping room	40
Sleeping rooms	30
Stairs	40 <sup>c</sup>

## Deck Design Loads

### Footnotes to Table R301.5

c. Individual Stair Treads shall be designed for the uniformly distributed live load or a **300-pound concentrated load acting over an area of 4 square inches**, whichever produces the greater stresses.

d. A single concentrated load applied in **any direction at any point** along the top.

e. See Section R502.2.2 for decks attached to exterior walls.


f. Guard-in-fill components (all those except the handrail, balusters and panel fillers) shall be designed to withstand a horizontally applied normal load of **50 pounds on an area equal to 1 sq ft**. This load need not be assumed to act concurrently with any other live load requirement.

h. Glazing used in handrail assemblies and guards shall be designed with a **safety factor of 4**. The safety factor shall be applied to each of the concentrated loads applied to the top of the rail, and to the load on the in-fill components. These loads shall be determined independent of one another, and loads are assumed not to occur with any other live load.

## Bearing – Joist Framing - R502.6.2

### R502.6.2 Joist framing

Joists framing into the side of a wood girder shall be supported by approved *framing anchors* or on ledger strips not less than nominal 2 inches by 2 inches.



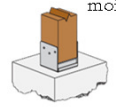
## Columns- Durability - R317.1.4

### Wood Columns.

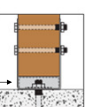
Wood columns shall be approved wood of natural decay resistance or approved pressure preservative treated wood.

### Exceptions:

- Posts or columns which are either **exposed to the weather** or located in basements or cellars, **supported by piers or metal pedestals projecting 1 inch (25.4 mm) above the floor or finished grade** and 6 inches (152 mm) above exposed earth, and are separated there by an approved impervious moisture barrier.



Typical PA44E installation




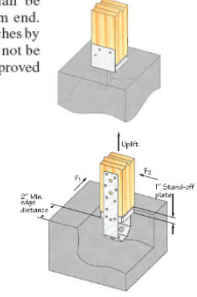
PAU cross-section

## Columns – Lateral Restraint- R407

### R407.3 Structural requirements.

The columns shall be restrained to prevent lateral displacement at the bottom end. Wood columns shall not be less in nominal size than 4 inches by 4 inches (102 mm by 102 mm) and steel columns shall not be less than 3-inch-diameter (76 mm) standard pipe or approved equivalent.

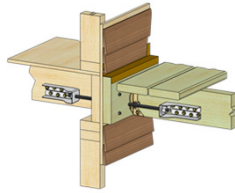




## Deck Connections

### R507.2.3 Deck lateral load connection.

The lateral load connection required by Section R507.1 shall be permitted to be in accordance with Figure R507.2.3. Where the lateral load connection is provided in accordance with Figure R507.2.3, hold-down tension devices shall be installed in **not less than two locations** per deck, and each device shall have an allowable stress design capacity of **not less than 1500 pounds**.



## Deck Connections

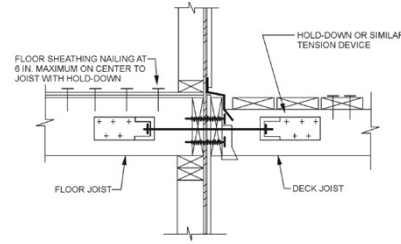
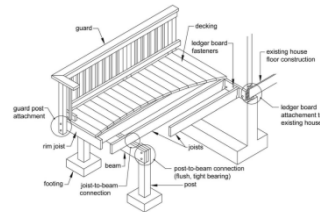


FIGURE 507.2.3  
DECK ATTACHMENT FOR LATERAL LOADS

## Prescriptive Residential Wood Deck Construction Guide Based on the 2009 International Residential Code

➤ <http://www.awc.org/Publications/DCA/DC A6/DCA6-09.pdf>



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## Beam-Column Connections

### 8 PRESCRIPTIVE RESIDENTIAL WOOD DECK CONSTRUCTION GUIDE

Figure 8. Post-to-Beam Attachment Requirements

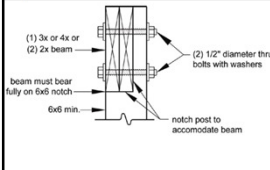
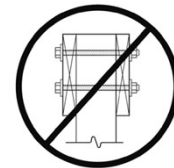
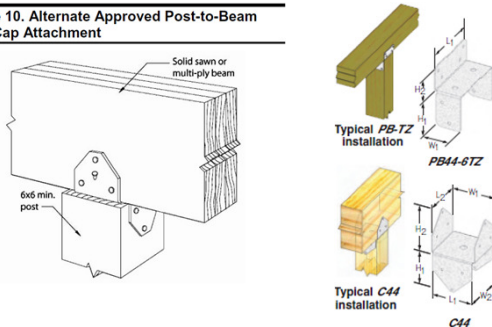


Figure 9. Prohibited Post-to-Beam Attachment Condition



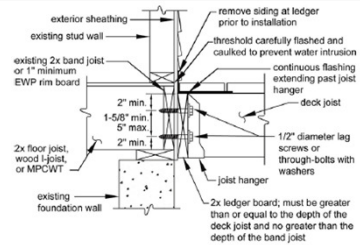
## Beam-Column Connections

Figure 10. Alternate Approved Post-to-Beam Post Cap Attachment



## Ledger Connections

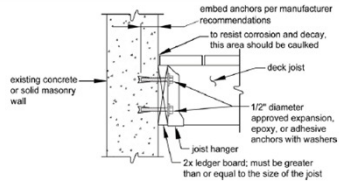
Figure 14. General Attachment of Ledger Board to Band Joist or Rim Board



From: Prescriptive Residential Wood Deck Construction Guide- [AF&PA Design for Code Acceptance 6](#)

## Ledger Connections

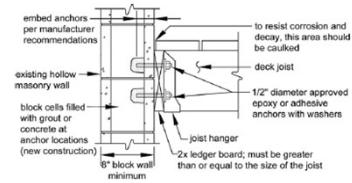
Figure 15. Attachment of Ledger Board to Foundation Wall (Concrete or Solid Masonry)



From: Prescriptive Residential Wood Deck Construction Guide- [AF&PA](#)  
Design for Code Acceptance 6

## Ledger Connections

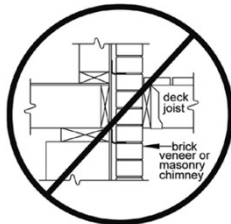
Figure 16. Attachment of Ledger Board to Foundation Wall (Hollow Masonry)



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Design for Code Acceptance 6

## Ledger Connections

Figure 17. No Attachment to or Through Exterior Veneers (Brick, Masonry, Stone)



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## Ledger Connections

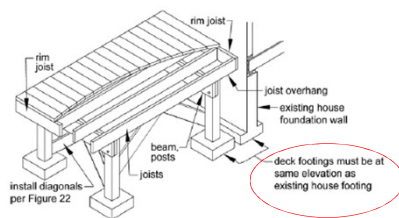
Figure 18. No Attachment to House Overhang



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## Footings

Figure 21. Free-Standing Deck



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Design for Code Acceptance 6

## Guards - R312

### ➤ R312.1 Where Required

Guards shall be located along open-sided walking surfaces, including stairs, ramps, and landings, that are located more than 30 inches measured vertically to the floor or grade below at any point within 36 inches horizontally to the edge of the open side. Insect screening shall not be considered as a guard.

### ➤ R312.2 Height

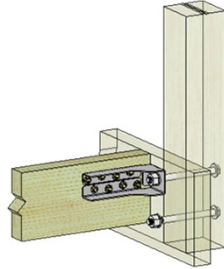
Required guards at open-sided walking surfaces, including stairs, porches, balconies or landings, shall be not less than 36 inches high measured vertically above the adjacent walking surface, adjacent fixed seating or the line connecting the leading edges of the treads.



# Railing to Post Deck Attachment

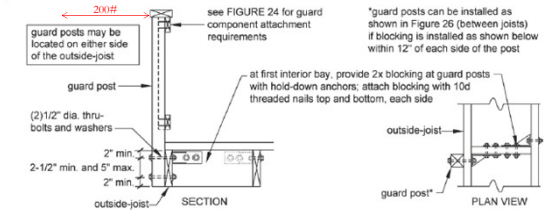
➤ IRC Table R301.5

Guardrails and handrails shall resist a single concentrated 200 lb load applied in any direction. Post must be fastened to the rim joist and tied back to the joist



# Guardrail Posts

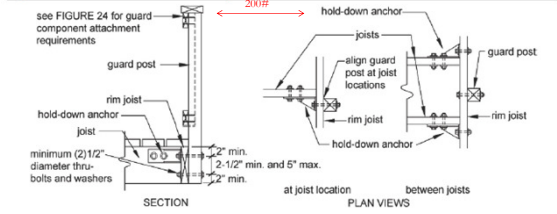
Figure 25. Guard Post to Outside Joist Example



From: Prescriptive Residential Wood Deck Construction Guide- AF&PA Design for Code Acceptance 6

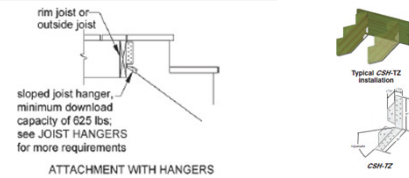
# Guardrail Posts

Figure 26. Guard Post to Rim Joist Example



# Stair Stringer Connection

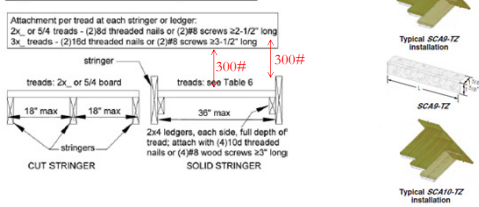
Figure 31. Stair Stringer Attachment Detail



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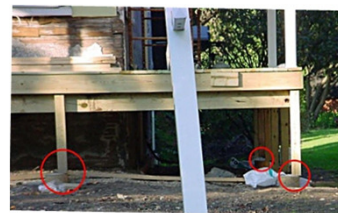
# Stair Tread Connection

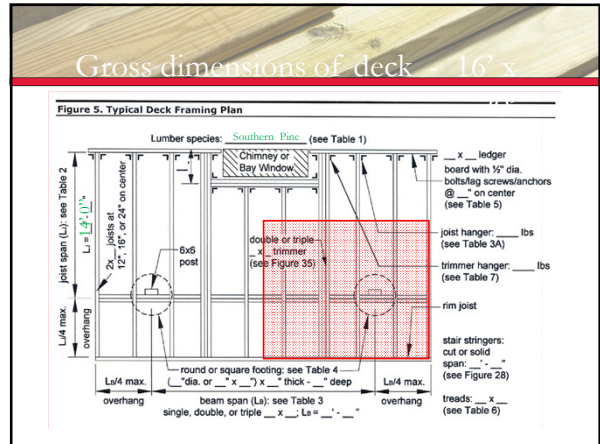
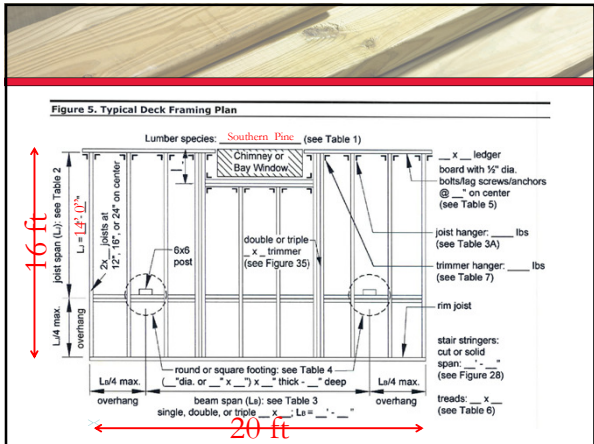
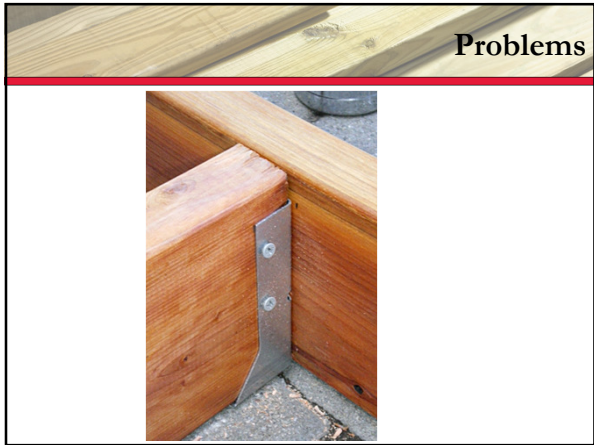
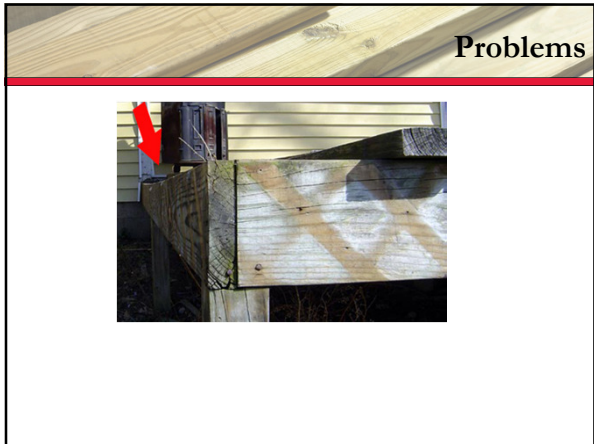
Figure 29. Tread Connection Requirements



From: Prescriptive Residential Wood Deck Construction Guide- AF&PA Design for Code Acceptance 6

# Problems

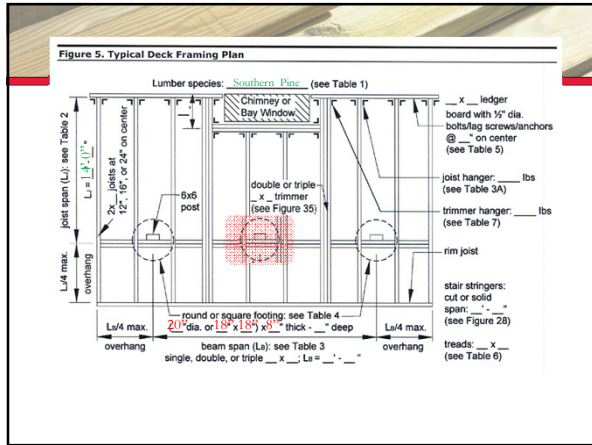
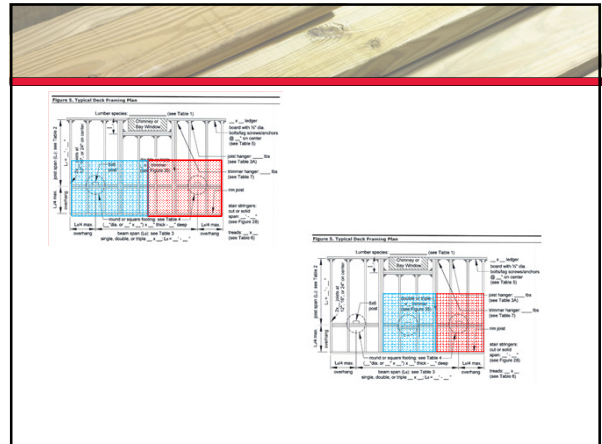




**Table 4. Footing Sizes<sup>1</sup>**

Beam Span, L <sub>b</sub>	Joist Span, L <sub>j</sub>	Round Footing Diameter	Square Footing Dimension	Footing Thickness <sup>2</sup>
6'	<10'	15"	13"	6"
	<14'	17"	15"	6"
	<18'	20"	18"	7"
8'	<10'	17"	15"	6"
	<14'	20"	18"	8"
	<18'	23"	21"	9"
10'	<10'	19"	17"	7"
	<14'	22"	20"	9"
	<18'	25"	23"	10"
12'	<10'	21"	19"	8"
	<14'	24"	22"	10"
	<18'	28"	26"	11"
14'	<10'	22"	20"	9"
	<14'	26"	24"	11"
	<18'	30"	28"	12"
16'	<10'	24"	22"	9"
	<14'	28"	26"	12"
	<18'	32"	30"	13"
18'	<10'	25"	23"	10"
	<14'	30"	28"	12"
	<18'	34"	32"	14"

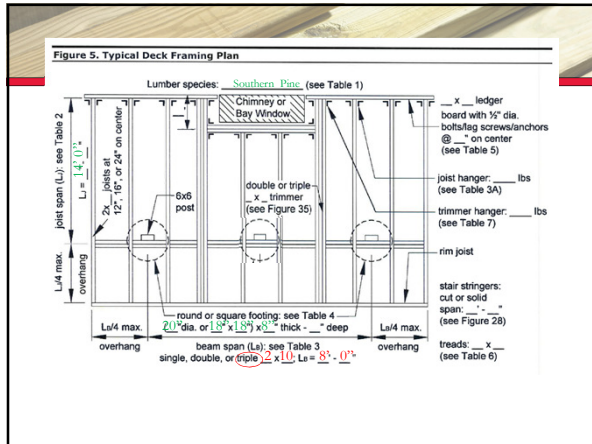
1. Assumes 1,500 psf soil bearing capacity.  
2. Assumes 2,500 psi compressive strength of concrete. Coordinate footing thickness with post base and anchor requirements.



**Table 3. Deck Beam Spans (L<sub>b</sub>)<sup>1</sup> for Joists Framing from One Side Only**

Species	Size <sup>2</sup>	Joist Spans (L <sub>j</sub> ) Less Than or Equal to:						
		6'	8'	10'	12'	14'	16'	18'
<b>Southern Pine</b>	2-2x6	7'-1"	6'-2"	5'-6"	5'-0"	4'-3"	4'-4"	4'-1"
	2-2x8	9'-2"	7'-11"	7'-1"	6'-6"	6'-0"	5'-7"	5'-3"
	2-2x10	11'-10"	10'-3"	9'-2"	8'-5"	7'-9"	7'-3"	6'-10"
	2-2x12	13'-11"	12'-0"	10'-9"	9'-10"	9'-1"	8'-6"	8'-0"
	3-2x6	8'-7"	7'-8"	6'-11"	6'-3"	5'-10"	5'-5"	5'-2"
	3-2x8	11'-4"	9'-11"	8'-11"	8'-1"	7'-6"	7'-0"	6'-7"
	3-2x10	14'-5"	12'-10"	11'-6"	10'-6"	9'-9"	9'-1"	8'-7"
	3-2x12	17'-5"	15'-1"	13'-6"	12'-4"	11'-5"	10'-8"	10'-1"
	3x8 or 2-2x6	5'-5"	4'-8"	4'-2"	3'-10"	3'-6"	3'-1"	2'-9"
	3x8 or 2-2x8	6'-10"	5'-11"	5'-4"	4'-10"	4'-6"	4'-1"	3'-8"
Douglas Fir, Larch <sup>3</sup> , Hem-Fir <sup>4</sup> , SPF <sup>2</sup> , Redwood, Western Cedars, Ponderosa Pine <sup>1</sup> , Red Pine <sup>2</sup>	3x10 or 2-2x10	8'-4"	7'-3"	6'-6"	5'-11"	5'-6"	5'-1"	4'-8"
	3x12 or 2-2x12	9'-8"	8'-5"	7'-6"	6'-10"	6'-4"	5'-11"	5'-7"
	4x6	6'-5"	5'-6"	4'-11"	4'-6"	4'-2"	3'-11"	3'-8"
	4x8	8'-5"	7'-3"	6'-6"	5'-11"	5'-6"	5'-2"	4'-10"
	4x10	9'-11"	8'-7"	7'-8"	7'-0"	6'-6"	6'-1"	5'-8"
	4x12	11'-5"	9'-11"	8'-10"	8'-1"	7'-6"	7'-0"	6'-7"
	3-2x6	7'-4"	6'-8"	6'-0"	5'-6"	5'-1"	4'-9"	4'-6"
	3-2x8	9'-8"	8'-6"	7'-7"	6'-11"	6'-5"	6'-0"	5'-8"
	3-2x10	12'-0"	10'-5"	9'-4"	8'-6"	7'-10"	7'-4"	6'-11"
	3-2x12	13'-11"	12'-1"	10'-9"	9'-10"	9'-1"	8'-6"	8'-1"

1. Assumes 40 psf live load, 10 psf dead load, L/360 simple span beam deflection limit, L/180 cantilever deflection limit, No. 2 grade, and wet service conditions.  
2. Inching assumed for refractory species including Douglas fir-larch, hem-fir, and spruce-pine-fir.  
3. Design values based on northern species with no incising assumed.  
4. Beam depth must be equal to or greater than joist depth if joist hangers are used (see Figure 6, Option 3).

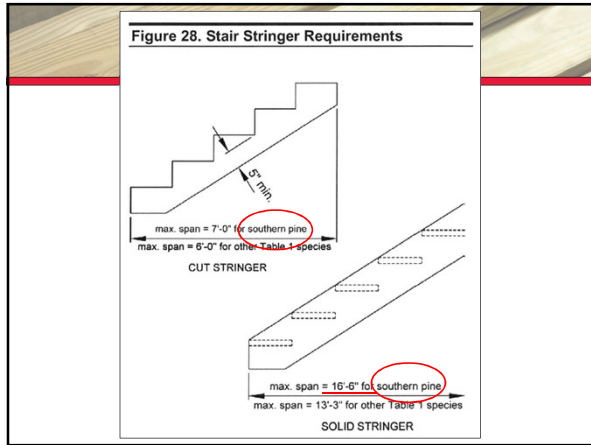
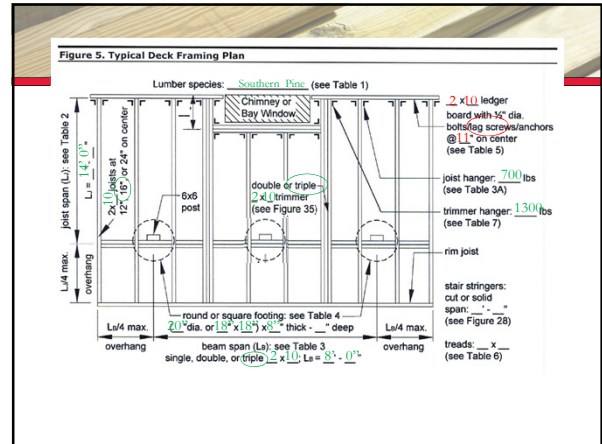
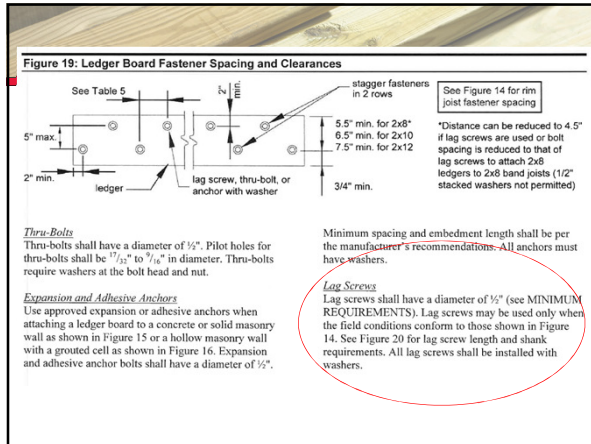


**Table 2. Maximum Joist Spans (L<sub>j</sub>)**

Species	Size	Joist Spacing (o.c.)					
		Without Overhangs <sup>1</sup>			With Overhangs up to L <sub>j</sub> /4 <sup>2</sup>		
		12"	16"	24"	12"	16"	24"
<b>Southern Pine</b>	2x8	13'-8"	12'-5"	10'-2"	10'-9"	10'-9"	10'-2"
	2x10	17'-5"	15'-10"	13'-1"	15'-6"	15'-6"	13'-1"
	2x12	18'-0"	18'-0"	15'-5"	18'-0"	18'-0"	15'-5"
Douglas Fir-Larch, Hem-Fir, SPF <sup>3</sup>	2x8	12'-6"	11'-1"	9'-1"	9'-5"	9'-5"	9'-1"
	2x10	15'-8"	13'-7"	11'-1"	13'-7"	13'-7"	11'-1"
	2x12	18'-0"	15'-9"	12'-10"	18'-0"	15'-9"	12'-10"
Redwood, Western Cedars, Ponderosa Pine <sup>1</sup> , Red Pine <sup>2</sup>	2x8	11'-8"	10'-7"	8'-8"	8'-6"	8'-6"	8'-6"
	2x10	14'-11"	13'-0"	10'-7"	12'-3"	12'-3"	10'-7"
	2x12	17'-5"	15'-1"	12'-4"	16'-5"	15'-1"	12'-4"

1. Assumes 40 psf live load, 10 psf dead load, L/360 deflection, No. 2 grade, and wet service conditions. See Figure 1B.  
2. Assumes 40 psf live load, 10 psf dead load, L/180 cantilever deflection with 220 lb point load, No. 2 grade, and wet service conditions. See Figure 1A and Figure 2.  
3. Inching assumed for refractory species including Douglas fir-larch, hem-fir, and spruce-pine-fir.  
4. Design values based on northern species with no incising assumed.

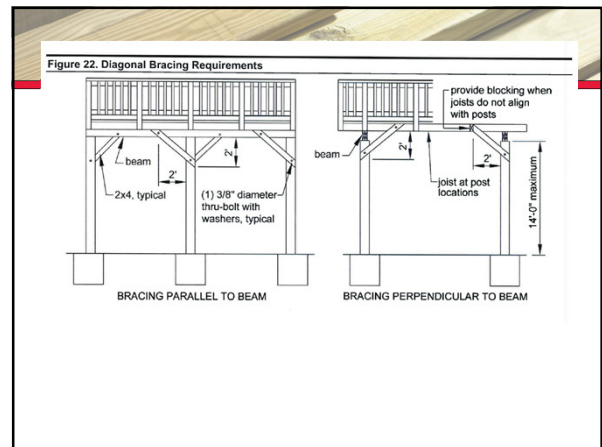
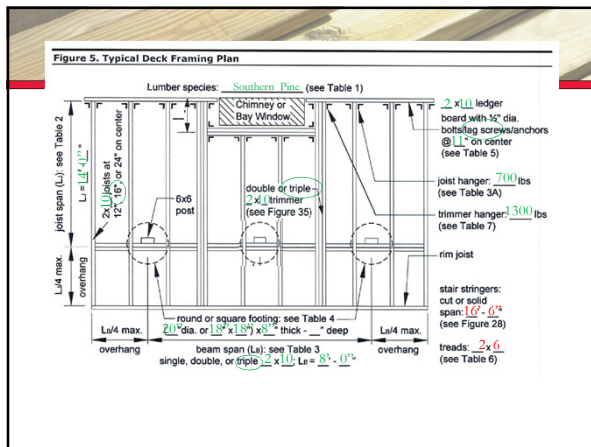


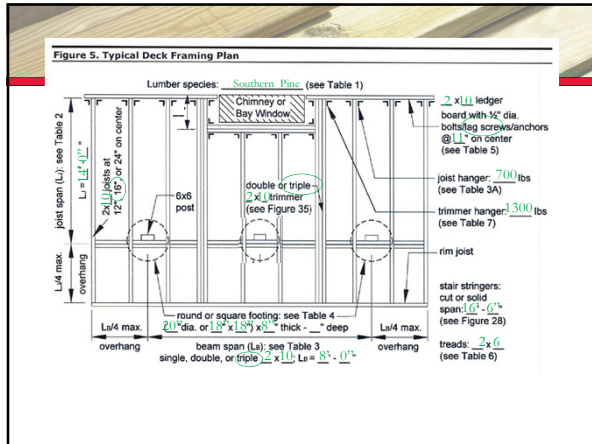


### Table 6. Minimum Tread Size for Cut and Solid Stringers<sup>1</sup>

Species	Cut Stringer	Solid Stringer
<u>Southern Pine</u>	2x4 or 5/4	<u>2x6</u>
Douglas Fir Larch, Hem-Fir, SPF <sup>2</sup>	2x4 or 5/4	2x8 or 3x4
Redwood, Western Cedars, Ponderosa Pine <sup>3</sup> , Red Pine <sup>3</sup>	2x4 or 5/4	2x10 or 3x4

- Assumes 300 lb concentrated load, L/288 deflection limit, No. 2 grade, and wet service conditions.
- Incurring assumed for refractory species including Douglas fir-larch, hem-fir, and spruce-pine-fir.
- Design values based on northern species with no incising assumed.





This concludes The American Institute of Architects  
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