

Construction Requirements for New Decks

The State of Wisconsin adopted new regulatory changes to the Uniform Dwelling Code (UDC) regarding the construction of exterior decks, which were effective on January 1, 2016. These changes can be found in chapters SPS 320 to 325 Appendix B and C of the Uniform Dwelling Code. They can be found on line, by going to the Department of Safety and Professional Services website and clicking on Industry Services (Safety and Buildings). Then click on One-and-Two-Family (Uniform Dwelling Code). Appendix B and C can be found under the Administration Code and Statutes.

In addition to a set of framing plans that includes a floor plan and structural detail. The attached deck tech sheet must be completed.

Decks constructed after January 1, 2016 will require a minimum of 2 inspections. **This also includes all decks for new house construction.**

Inspections Required:

1. **Footings:** After all holes are dug, but before concrete is installed. Please have all post pads on site ready for inspection.
2. **Framing:** If the deck is too close to the ground to see under, an additional inspection of the framing will be required before the decking is installed.
3. **Final:** After all work is completed.

Listed below are some of the major changes to the code:

1. Footing and post sizes. All are listed in the code.
2. Beams, joist and ledger sizes. All are listed in the code.
3. Attachment to the house. Screws or bolts attached to certain band boards and floor joist systems.
Tension ties must be installed.
4. Attachment of stairs to the deck. Use of a connector.
5. Frost protection.
6. Railing attachments to the deck.
7. Use of a compliant handrail.
8. Attachment to bay bump outs and house cantilevers is prohibited unless supports are added to carry the added loads.

If you have any questions about the code or what is required, please call the building inspector Fred Hankel at (715)577-7983