Acceptable Spans for Deck Beams and Joists (use Diagrams 2 and 3 as a guide)

Beam (J) sizes and options.

Wood Beam Size	Supported Joist Length of Wood Joists				
	8' - 0"	10' - 0"	12' - 0"	14' - 0"	16' - 0"
	Maximum Span of Wood Beam Between Columns (Z)				
3 - 2" X 8"	10' - 0"	9' - 4"	8' - 7"	7' - 11"	7' - 5"
4 - 2" X 8"	11' - 0"	10' - 3"	9' - 8"	9' - 2"	8' - 7"
3 - 2" x 10"	12' - 10"	11' - 6"	10' - 6"	9' - 8"	9' - 1"
4 - 2" X 10"	14' - 1"	13' - 1"	12' - 1"	11' - 2"	10' - 6"
3 - 2" X 12"	14' - 11"	13' - 4"	12' - 2"	11' - 3"	10' - 6"
4 - 2" X 12"	17' - 2"	15' - 4"	14' - 0"	13' - 0"	12' - 2"

Joist (W) sizes and options.

Lumber Size	Spacing of Joists (W) (on center)	Span (F)	Spacing of joists (W) (on center)	Span (F)
2" X 6"	16"	9' - 8"	12"	10' - 8"
2" X 8"	16"	12' - 9"	12"	13' - 6"
2" X 10"	16"	15' - 7"	12"	16' - 1"
2" X 12"	16"	17' - 10"	12"	18' - 11"

Footing (H) options.

A deck may be supported with a 10'' sonotube on a 24''x24'' column pad. You may also use a "big foot" footing and sono tube combination.

Notes:

1. Supported joist length is half the sum of joist spans on both sides of the beam.

2. Lumber used for joists, trusses, rafters and beams shall be identified by a grade stamp to indicate its grade as determined by the Standards Grading Rules for Canadian Lumber.

Decks

Frequently Asked Questions

What do I need to apply for a permit?

- Complete digital plans, showing all structural components.
- Site plan showing the proposed location of the project in relation to any other buildings on the property, the property lines, and water courses.
- All applicable fees and deposits.
- Find more details and get started with your online permit application on https://www.halifax.ca/home-property/building-development-permits

How much will my permit cost?

The permit fee to construct a deck is based on $5.50 per $1000.00 of the estimated value of your project with a minimum fee of $25.00 and a Development Permit fee of $50.00. Depending on the complexity of your project, additional fees may be required. If the property is located in Bedford a lot grading permit is required. Please consult our fee schedule at www.halifax.ca.

How do I request an inspection?

Once your permit is issued, an inspection can be requested within your customer portal of the Online Permit System.

How long will it take to get a permit?

Permit processing times vary based on the volume and complexity of current permit applications.

Do I need footings for my deck?

Yes, you require footings for a deck if it is attached to your house. You also require footings for a deck if it is detached and more than 2' above grade.

Where can I make an application for a permit?

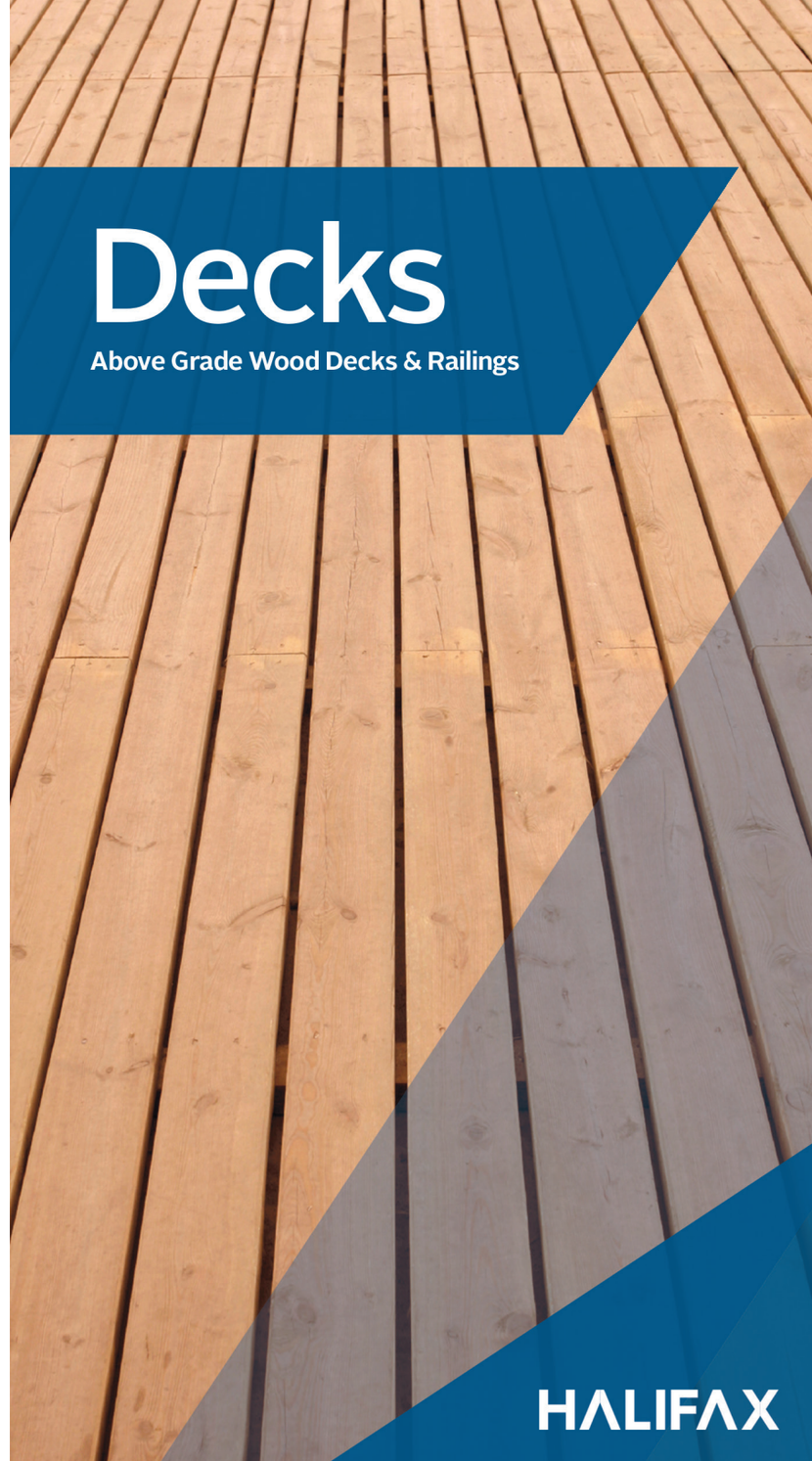
Apply for permits Online at Halifax.ca

How can I pay for my permit?

In order for a permit application to be submitted online it must be paid in full using either Visa, MasterCard, Visa Debit, Mastercard Debit or Amex. (Only one tender type is accepted via our online payment system.)
If you do not want to pay online, you can pay for your permit by dropping off a cheque at:
5251 Duke Street, Duke Tower, 3rd Floor, Suite 300, Halifax, NS
8:30 a.m - 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. Closed weekends and holidays.
Be sure to include the permit number on the cheque.

HALIFAX

MAR 2021

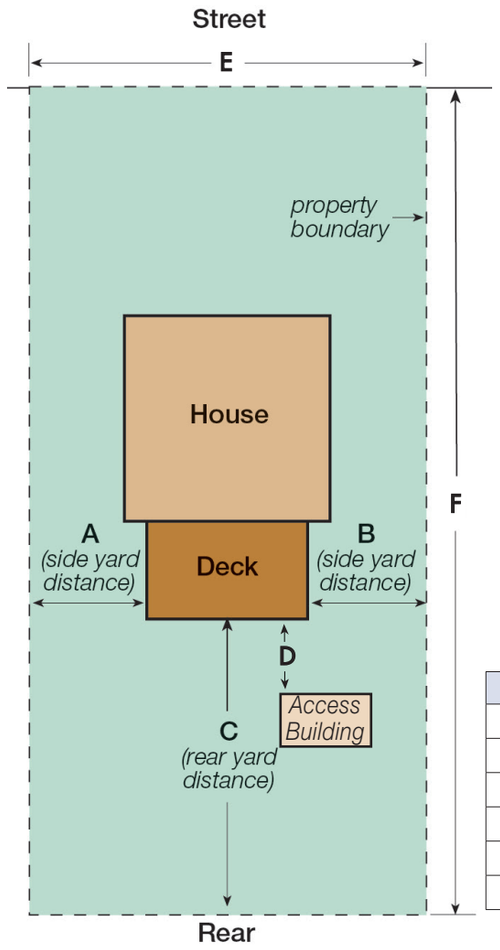


Residents locating a deck on their property in Halifax are required to obtain a permit. In obtaining a permit, details of locating the deck must be identified.

Sample Site Plan

Indicate distances to the property lines from the proposed deck on the drawing below.

DIAGRAM 1



DIMENSIONS
A =
B =
C =
D =
E =
F =

Sample Construction Plan

Indicate the construction details outlined in the plan and elevation below.

DIAGRAM 2

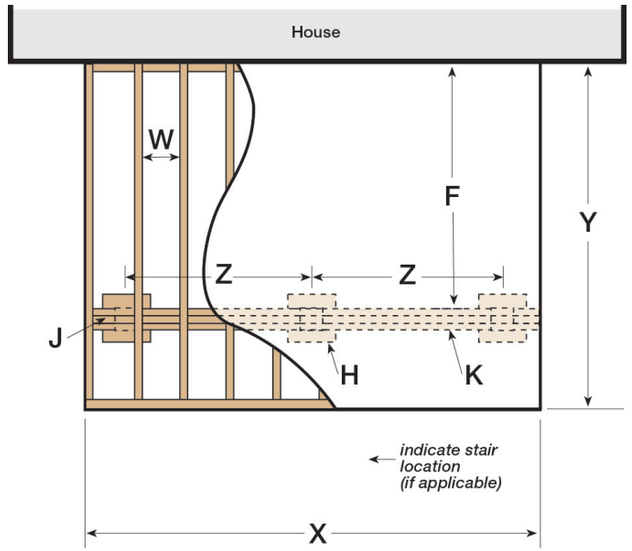
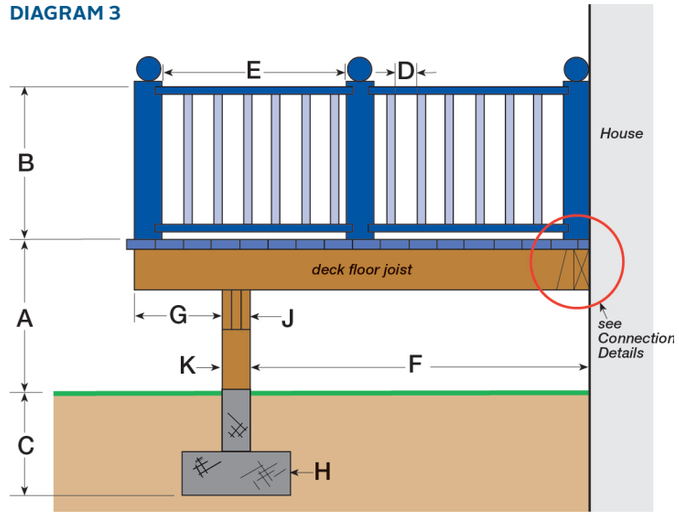


DIAGRAM 3



Specifications

Please provide the following dimensional information (use diagrams 2 and 3 as a guide)

		DIMENSION
A	Height of deck above finished ground level	
B	Height of deck guard: If “A” is equal to or less than 6 ft, required 36 in If “A” is greater than 6 ft, required 42 in	
C	Footing depth below grade for frost protection - 4 ft minimum	
D	Openings in the guard - maximum 4 in opening	
E	Distance between posts	
F	Span of floor joist - table other side	
G	Cantilever (if applicable)	
H	Column footing size - width and thickness	
J	Beam size - table other side	
K	Wood column supporting wood beam - minimum column size 6 in x 6 in	
W	Joist size and spacing	
X	Deck width	
Y	Deck length	
Z	Distance between support columns	

Connection Details