



**Lonsdale Building Inspections Department**  
**415 Central Street W.**  
**PO Box 357**  
**Lonsdale, MN 55046**  
**(507) 744-2327 fax (507) 744-5554**

**SPECIFICATIONS FOR DECKS**  
**REQUIRED INFORMATION WHEN APPLYING FOR PERMIT**

1. Completion of **Building Permit Application**.
2. A copy of a **Certificate of Survey** or site plan drawn to scale showing property lines, existing buildings, and the proposed structure location with distances to property lines.
3. A copy of **Building Plans**. All structural members must be sized and properly spaced to support all loads. The following pages may be used in designing your deck. If there is any overhead wires in the vicinity your proposed deck, contact the state electrical inspector for required clearances.
  - All dimensions of deck drawn to scale.
  - Size and depth of footings.
  - Size and spacing of posts.
  - Size of beams and headers.
  - Size, direction and spacing of joists.
  - Size and direction of decking.
  - Type and size of all materials used.
  - One (1) elevation showing height of deck and guardrail design.

**PICKING UP THE PERMIT**

Your application will be reviewed for code compliance and set back requirements. Permit fees will be calculated, and you will be notified when the permit is ready to be picked up. Before digging call GOPHER STATE ONE CALL at (651)454-0002 to locate utilities 48 hours in advance.

**GENERAL BUILDING REQUIREMENTS**

1. The bottom of the footing must be 42 inches minimum below finished grade, measured either vertically or horizontally.
2. Beam-ends and splices must be over posts, minimum 1 ½ inch of bearing.

3. Deck ledger boards must be bolted to the structure, (minimum (2) 3/8 inch lag screws every 16 inches. Screws shall be positively anchored to the primary structure and designed for both verticle & horizontal loads. Floor system manufacturers are to provide connection details.
4. Joist hangers are required wherever joists do not have 1 ½ inches of bearing, (Exception: cantilevered ends).
5. Guardrails are required on all decks more than 30 inches above grade or a lower deck. Guardrails must be 36 inches minimum height. Stair railings and open guardrails must have intermediate rails or an ornamental pattern that a 4 inch sphere cannot pass though.
6. Stairways must be 36 inches between guardrails for the full length of the stairway. The maximum rise is  $7\frac{3}{4}$  , the minimum run is 10 inches. The largest tread width or riser height shall be consistent within 3/8 of an inch.
7. Handrails are required for two or more stair risers. Handrails must have a continuous grippable surface, and be 34 inches to 38 inches above the tread nosing, and run the full length of the stairs with ends returned. Exception 1; handrails may be interrupted by hewel post at a turn. Exception 2; the use of a colute turnout or starting easing shall be allowed over the lowest tread.
8. Wooden structural members of exterior decks must be cedar, redwood, or treated wood, or approved composit material.
9. If pier blocks are used, they must be connected to footing to prevent lateral displacement and uplift. Concrete or masonry piers shall project at least 8 inches above grade unless the columns or posts that they support are approved treated material.
10. Special designs or additional engineering will be required for a 3 season porch or future screen porch or if spas/whirlpools tubs will be placed/located on decks.

### **REQUIRED INSPECTIONS**

Please call 24 hours in advance for required inspections.  
507-364-5345

1. **Footing inspection**  
Schedule an inspection after holes are dug, loose dirt and water removed before pouring concrete.
2. **Framing inspection**  
Schedule an inspection if the under-floor framing will be concealed when complete.
3. **Final inspection**  
Schedule an inspection after the deck is complete.