

# Decks

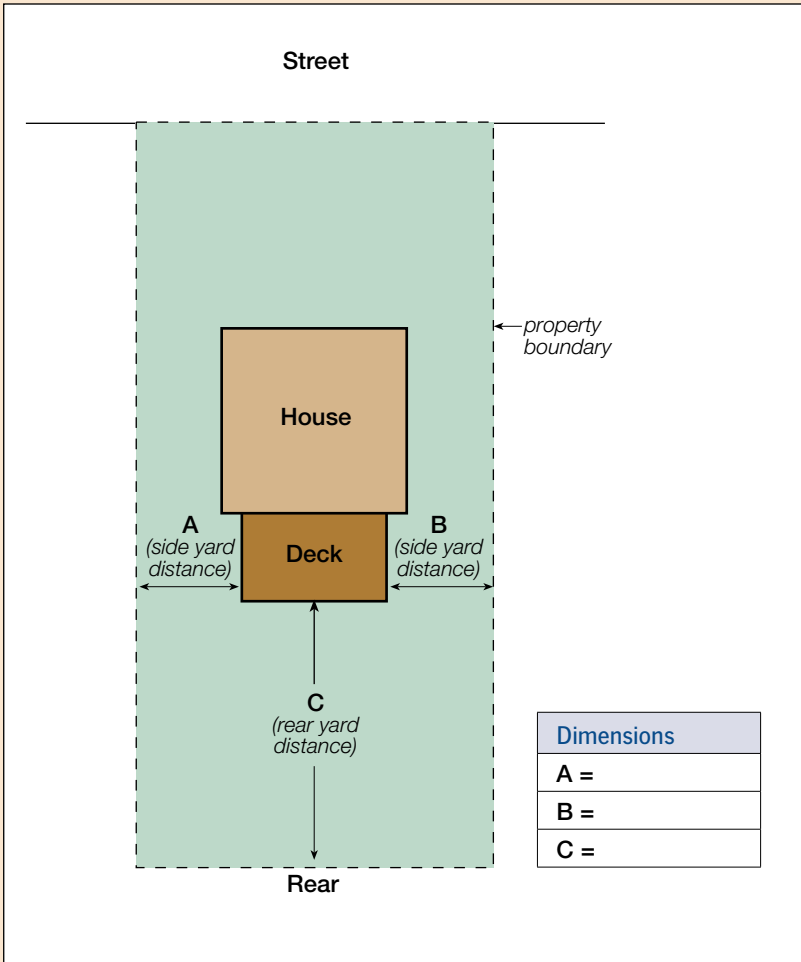
*Above Grade Wood Decks and Railings*



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

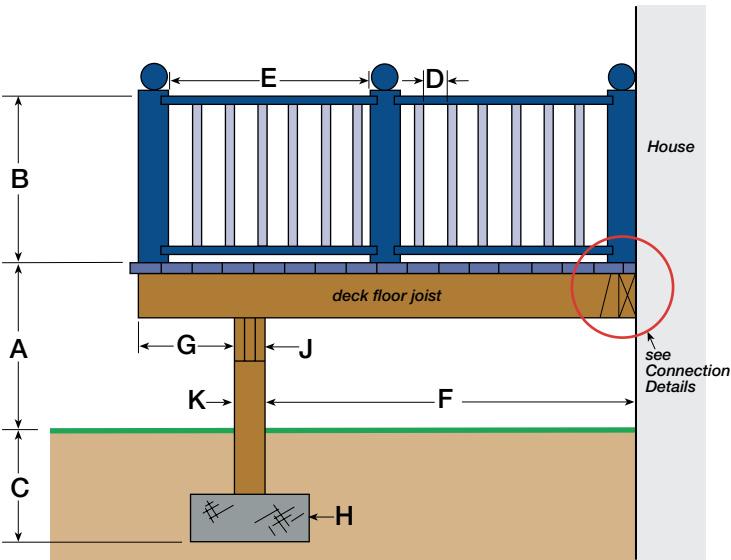
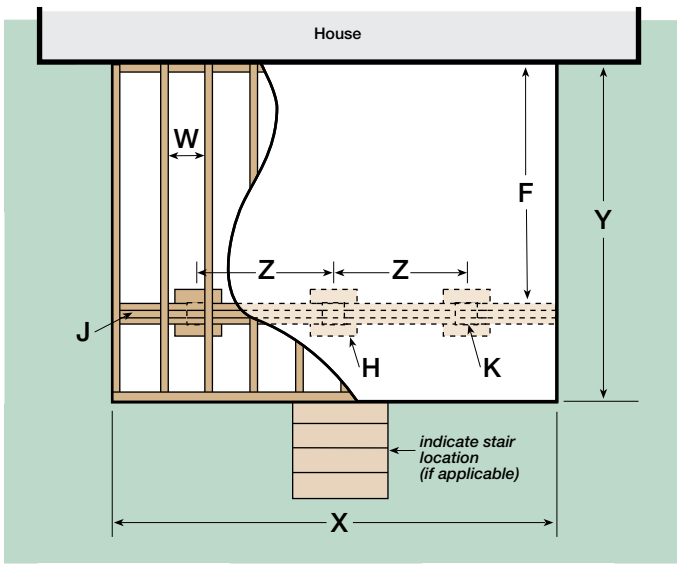
**Example Site Plan**

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



# Example Construction Plan

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

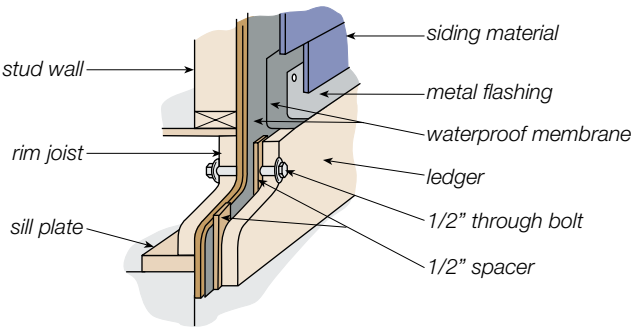


# Specifications

Please provide the following dimentional information (use diagrams as a guide)

		Dimension
A	Height of deck above finished ground level	
B	Height of deck guard	
C	Footing depth below grade for frost protection - 1.2 m (4 ft) minimum	
D	Openings in the guard - maximum 100 mm (4 in) opening	
E	Distance between posts - maximum 2.4 m (8 ft) apart	
F	Span of floor joist - <i>table other side</i>	
G	Cantilever (if applicable)	
H	Column footing size - <i>table other side</i>	
J	Beam size - <i>table other side</i>	
K	Wood column supporting wood beam - minimum column size 140 mm x 140 mm (6 in x 6 in)	
W	Joist size and spacing	
X	Deck width	
Y	Deck length	
Z	Distance between support columns	

## Connection Details



# Acceptable Spans for Deck Beams and Joists

## 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 24" x 24" column pad on a minimum 10" sono tube. 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*.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### *What do I need to apply for a permit?*

You will need to submit with a completed permit application form

- 3 copies of the complete plans, showing all structural components.
- 3 copies of a 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.

### *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.

### *Do I need to call for inspections?*

Yes, once the permit is issued, you are required to call for the following inspections:

- Footing
- Final

### *How long will it take to get a permit?*

Once we have received your application, every effort is made to issue your permit within 5 business days. You may call any time to inquire about the status of your application. Please remember to have your application number when making inquiries or submitting additional information.

### *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 do I go to make an application?*

The following HRM Customer Service Centres accept applications. They are located at:

- 636 Sackville Drive (Acadia Centre) in Sackville, 869-4380,
- 6960 Mumford Road (West End Mall) in Halifax, 490-5650,
- or
- 40 Alderney Drive (Alderney Gate) in Dartmouth, 490-4435.