



HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP

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General Guidelines for the Submission of a Deck Permit

The drawings attached to this handout are illustrative and for your convenience to aid you in preparing a design for your deck and supplying the necessary information to the building department for review. The specifications contained in these drawing are not necessarily minimums or maximums, unless noted as such.

You may use some, all, or none of these drawings with your submission. You may copy or alter them, or parts of them, if you feel that they can be adapted to your particular project.

When designing your deck, some points to consider:

- 1.) **Water is heavy.** If you intend to place a spa or hot tub *on* your deck, your design must be sealed by a Pa. licensed architect or structural engineer.
- 2.) The maximum joist free span (the distance between the house and support beam), should generally not exceed the following maximums*:
 - a. 2x6 Joist 9'4"
 - b. 2x8 Joist 12'3"
 - c. 2x10 Joist 15'3"
 - d. 2x12 Joist 17'7"

*these spans assume 16" spacing
between joist and are based on SPF #2
(wood species: Spruce/Pine/Fir)
- 3.) The spacing between the posts that support your beam will vary depending upon the size of your deck; however, a 6'6" span with a double 2x8 and an 8' 0" span with a double 2x10 is generally acceptable.
- 4.) **Cantilever** is the area of a deck that extends past the beam; in general, your cantilever may be: 1' with 2x6 joist, 2' with 2x8 joist, or 3' with 2x10 or 2x12 joists.
- 5.) There are many different ways of installing footings and support posts for decks, and most will be acceptable to the Hilltown Township Building Department assuming that they meet these minimum criteria: the footing must a minimum of 8" wide, 8" thick, and extend a minimum of 36" below ground level; and , if your deck is 72" or higher above the ground, your posts must be 6x6 minimum.

The information contained on this page and the attached drawings is not intended limit the design or scope of any project; the information is meant to aid an applicant in preparing plans for submission for review by the building department. Further, depending on the complexity of a given project, more information may be required.

All plans will be reviewed for conformance with the current Hilltown Township Building Code. This department reserves the right to require review by a state licensed design professional when deemed appropriate.

TYPICAL DECK CROSS SECTION



