

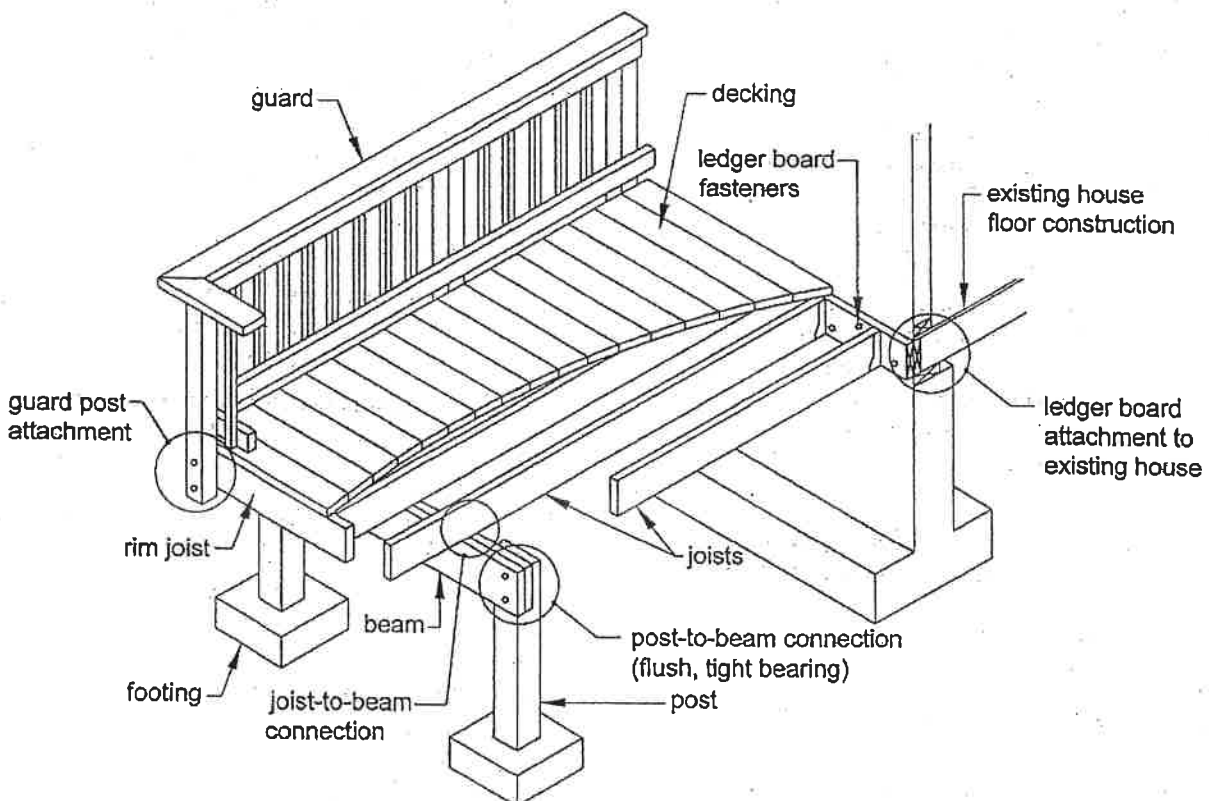
TYPICAL DECK DETAILS

Based on the International Residential Code 2015

New Jersey Edition

Prescriptive Residential Wood Deck Construction Guide

Based on the 2015 *International Residential Code*



Where applicable, provisions and details contained in this document are based on the *International Residential Code (IRC)* [bracketed text references applicable sections of the *IRC*]. Prescriptive construction methods recommended meet or exceed minimum requirements of the *IRC*. Provisions that are not found in the *IRC* are recommended as good industry practice. Where differences exist between provisions of this document and the *IRC*, provisions of the *IRC* shall apply. This document is not intended to preclude the use of other construction methods or materials. All construction and materials must be approved by the authority having jurisdiction. Every effort has been made to reflect the language and intent of the *IRC*. However, no assurance can be given that designs and construction made in accordance with this document meet the requirements of any particular jurisdiction.

DECK FRAMING PLAN

A framing plan shows the layout of the primary structural system. Examples of structural elements include: joists, beams, ledger board, posts, footings, stringers, treads, and the type, size, and spacing of ledger board fasteners. Figure C5 shows an example of a typical deck framing plan.

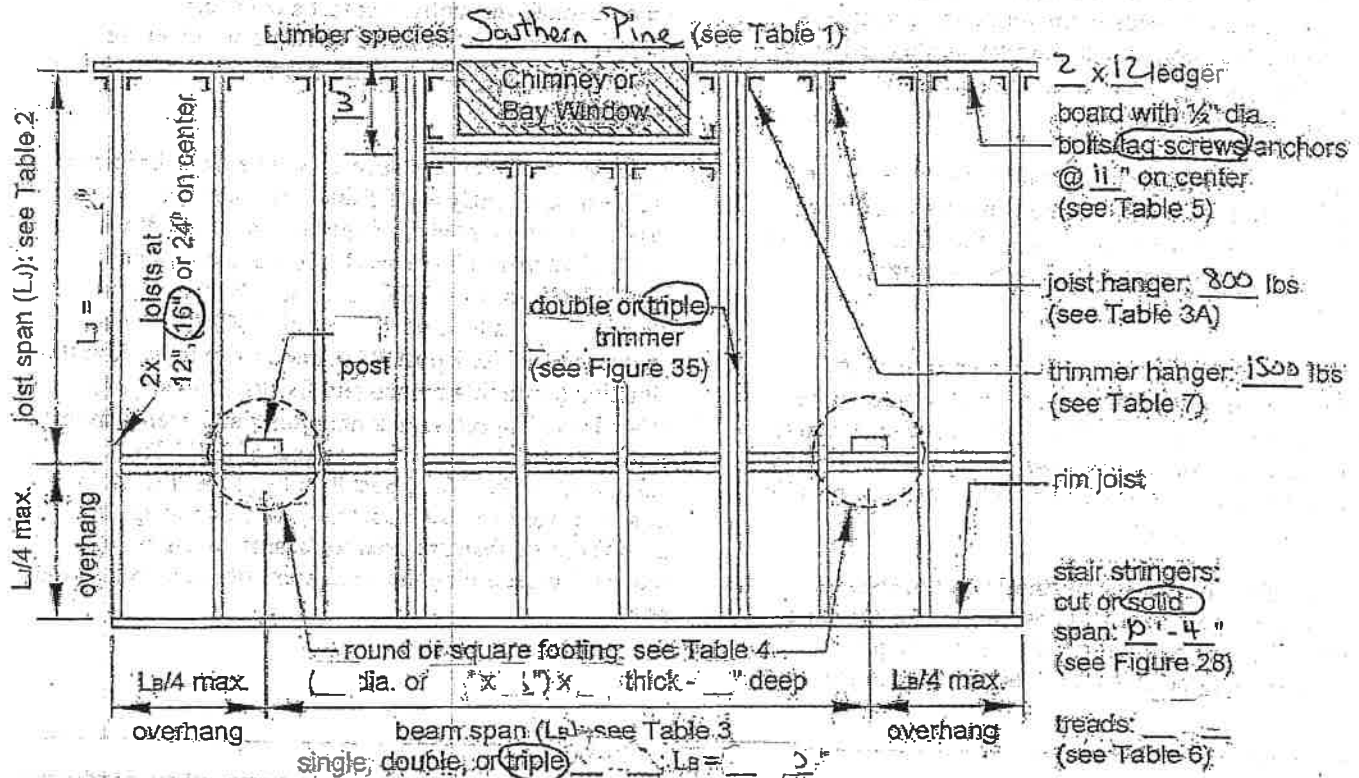


Figure C5. Example of Typical Deck Framing Plan

JOIST-TO-BEAM CONNECTION

Joist-to-beam connections must be installed to handle forces in several directions. Options 1 and 2 handle gravity loads through bearing of the joist to the beam, while Option 3 requires nails to resist these downward loads. All three options have been evaluated to ensure

that an uplift load created by a 220 lb point load at the end of a cantilevered joist will be resisted.

Manufacturers regard connectors with missing nails as mis-installations and do not recommend they be installed as such.

JOIST HANGERS

The loads listed in the Table 3A are derived from the worst case condition for each joist size based on Table 2 (508 lbs, 654 lbs, and 771 lbs for southern pine at 24" o.c. for 2x8, 2x10, and 2x12, respectively). For simple

span applications without overhangs, as shown in Table 2, note that spans are identical to those shown in Table 2 with overhangs for southern pine joists at 24" o.c., therefore the same joist hanger capacities as shown in Table 3A will work for spans with or without overhangs.

Figure 1A. Joist Span – Deck Attached at House and Bearing Over Beam

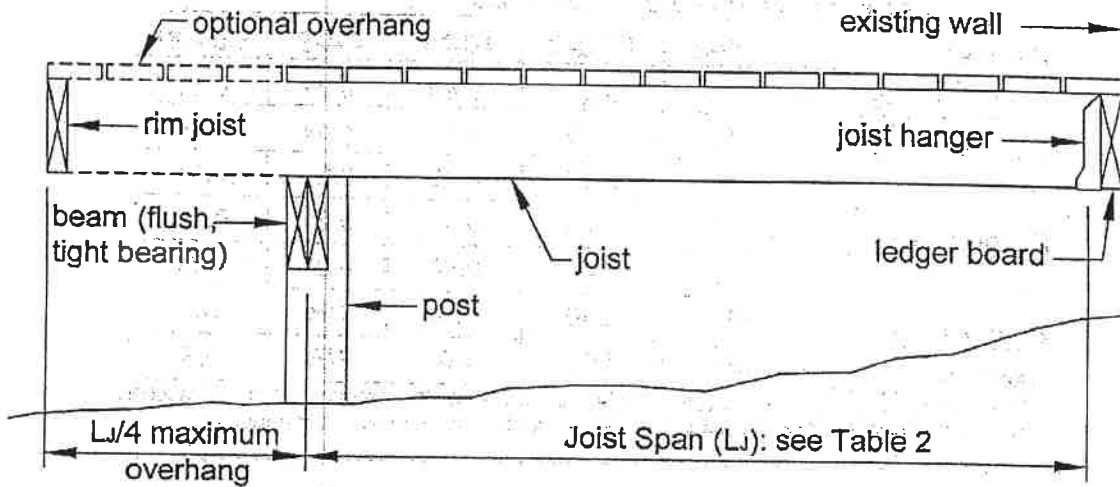


Figure 1B. Joist Span – Joists Attached at House and to Side of Beam

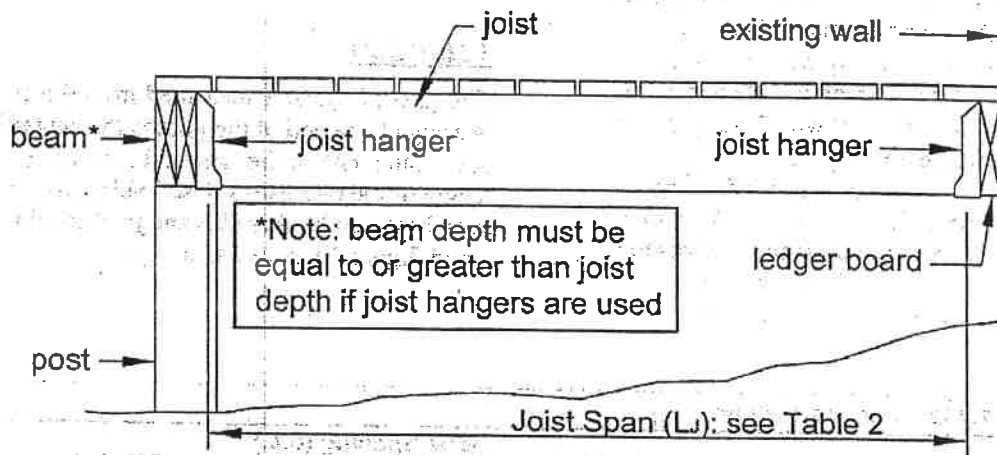
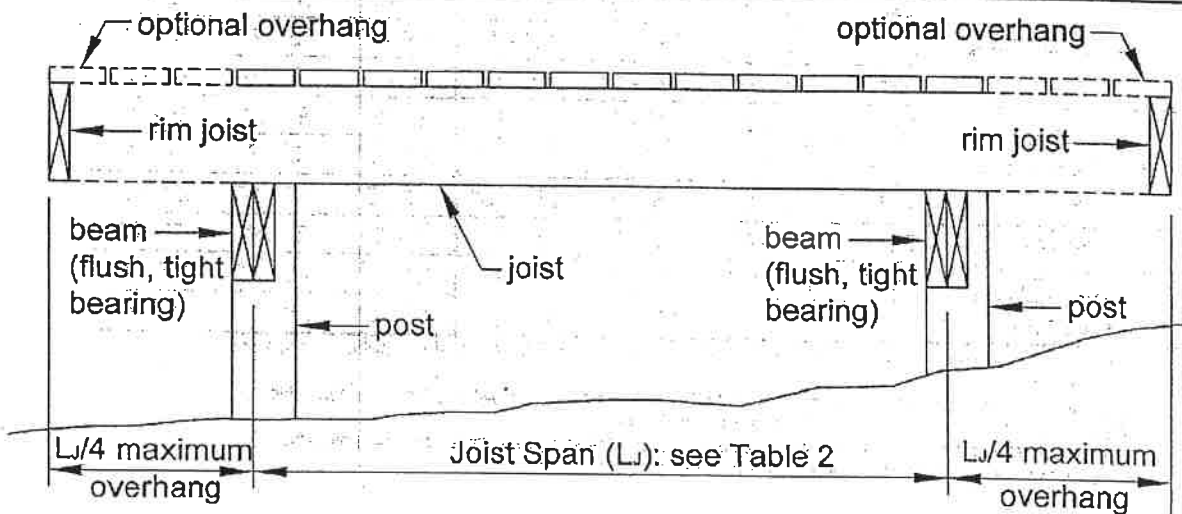


Figure 2. Joist Span – Free-Standing Deck



BEAM SIZE & ASSEMBLY REQUIREMENTS

Deck beam spans shall be in accordance with Table 3 and can extend past the post centerline up to $L_B/4$ as shown in Figure 3. Joists may bear on the beam and extend past the beam centerline up to $L_J/4$ as shown in Figures 1A and 2, or the joists may attach to the side of the beam with joist hangers as shown in Figure 1B.

Joists shall not frame in from opposite sides of the same beam. See JOIST-TO-BEAM CONNECTION details; Figure 6.

Where multiple 2x members are used, the deck's beam is assembled by attaching the members identified in Table 3 in accordance with Figure 4. [Table R602.3(1)]

Table 3. Deck Beam Spans (L_B)¹ for Joists Framing from One Side Only

Species	Size ⁴	Joist Spans (L_J) Less Than or Equal to:						
		6'	8'	10'	12'	14'	16'	18'
Southern Pine	2-2x6	7' - 1"	6' - 2"	5' - 6"	5' - 0"	4' - 8"	4' - 4"	4' - 1"
	2-2x8	9' - 2"	7' - 11"	7' - 1"	6' - 6"	6' - 0"	5' - 7"	5' - 3"
	2-2x10	11' - 10"	10' - 3"	9' - 2"	8' - 5"	7' - 9"	7' - 3"	6' - 10"
	2-2x12	13' - 11"	12' - 0"	10' - 9"	9' - 10"	9' - 1"	8' - 6"	8' - 0"
	3-2x6	8' - 7"	7' - 8"	6' - 11"	6' - 3"	5' - 10"	5' - 5"	5' - 2"
	3-2x8	11' - 4"	9' - 11"	8' - 11"	8' - 1"	7' - 6"	7' - 0"	6' - 7"
	3-2x10	14' - 5"	12' - 10"	11' - 6"	10' - 6"	9' - 9"	9' - 1"	8' - 7"
	3-2x12	17' - 5"	15' - 1"	13' - 6"	12' - 4"	11' - 5"	10' - 8"	10' - 1"
Douglas Fir-Larch ² , Hem-Fir ² , SPF ² , Redwood, Western Cedars, Ponderosa Pine ³ , Red Pine ³	3x6 or 2-2x6	5' - 5"	4' - 8"	4' - 2"	3' - 10"	3' - 6"	3' - 1"	2' - 9"
	3x8 or 2-2x8	6' - 10"	5' - 11"	5' - 4"	4' - 10"	4' - 6"	4' - 1"	3' - 8"
	3x10 or 2-2x10	8' - 4"	7' - 3"	6' - 6"	5' - 11"	5' - 6"	5' - 1"	4' - 8"
	3x12 or 2-2x12	9' - 8"	8' - 5"	7' - 6"	6' - 10"	6' - 4"	5' - 11"	5' - 7"
	4x6	6' - 5"	5' - 6"	4' - 11"	4' - 6"	4' - 2"	3' - 11"	3' - 8"
	4x8	8' - 5"	7' - 3"	6' - 6"	5' - 11"	5' - 6"	5' - 2"	4' - 10"
	4x10	9' - 11"	8' - 7"	7' - 8"	7' - 0"	6' - 6"	6' - 1"	5' - 8"
	4x12	11' - 5"	9' - 11"	8' - 10"	8' - 1"	7' - 6"	7' - 0"	6' - 7"
Ponderosa Pine ³ , Red Pine ³	3-2x6	7' - 4"	6' - 8"	6' - 0"	5' - 6"	5' - 1"	4' - 9"	4' - 6"
	3-2x8	9' - 8"	8' - 6"	7' - 7"	6' - 11"	6' - 5"	6' - 0"	5' - 8"
	3-2x10	12' - 0"	10' - 5"	9' - 4"	8' - 6"	7' - 10"	7' - 4"	6' - 11"
	3-2x12	13' - 11"	12' - 1"	10' - 9"	9' - 10"	9' - 1"	8' - 6"	8' - 1"

1. Assumes 40 psf live load; 10 psf dead load, L/360 simple span beam deflection limit, L/180 cantilever deflection limit, No. 2 grade, and wet service conditions.
2. Incising assumed for refractory species including Douglas fir-larch, hem-fir, and spruce-pine-fir.
3. Design values based on northern species with no incising assumed.
4. Beam depth must be equal to or greater than joist depth if joist hangers are used (see Figure 6, Option 3).

Figure 3: Beam Span Types

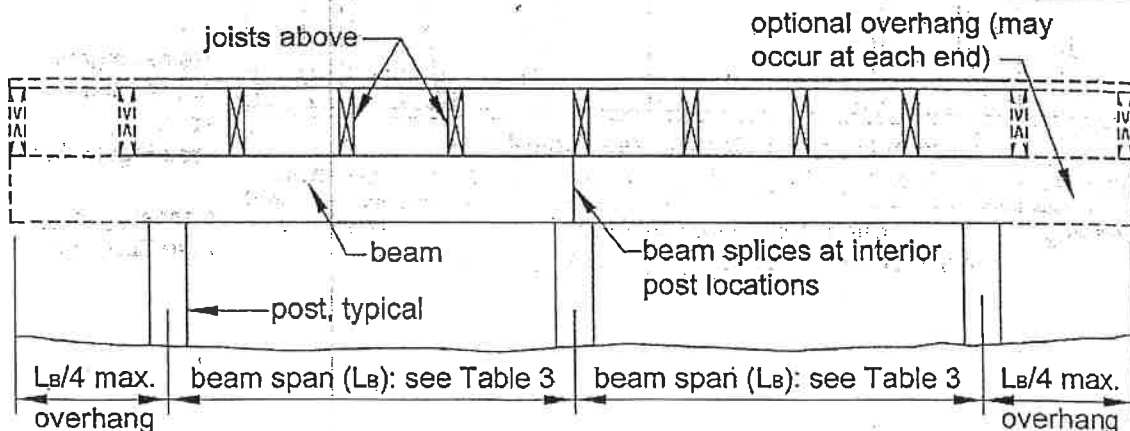


Figure 8. Post-to-Beam Attachment Requirements

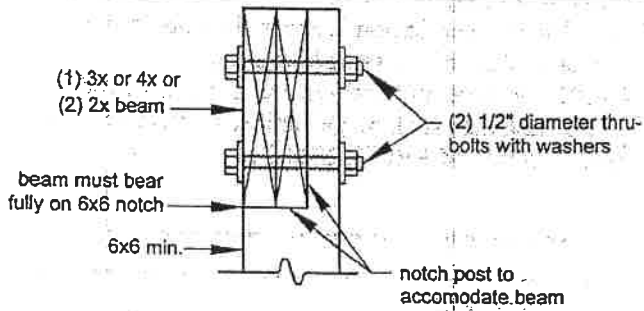
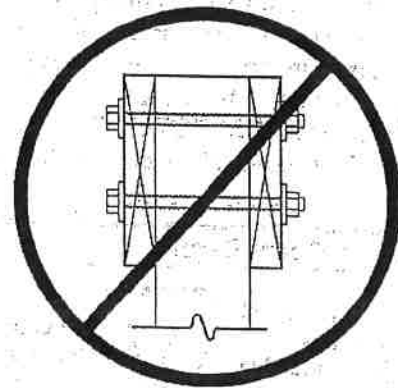


Figure 9. Prohibited Post-to-Beam Attachment Condition



RIM JOIST REQUIREMENTS

Attach a continuous rim joist to the ends of joists as shown in Figure 11. Attach decking to the rim joist as shown in Figure 11. For more decking attachment requirements, see DECKING REQUIREMENTS.

Figure 10. Alternate Approved Post-to-Beam Post Cap Attachment

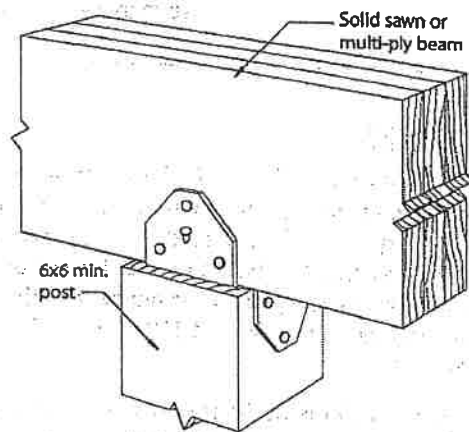
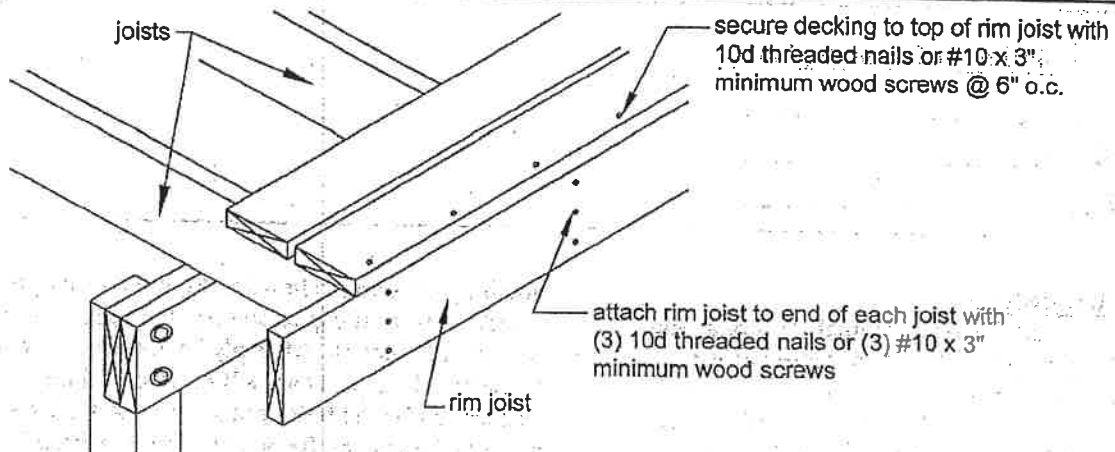


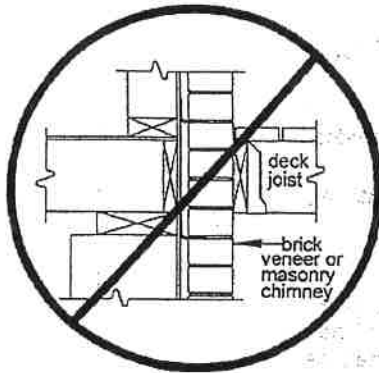
Figure 11. Rim Joist Connection Details



PROHIBITED LEDGER ATTACHMENTS

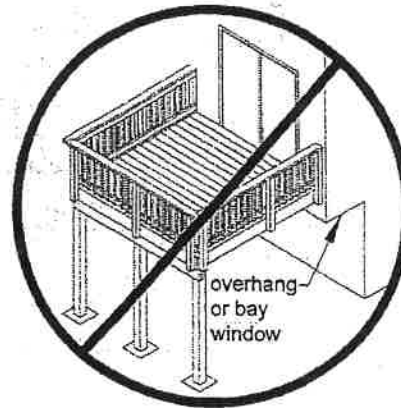
Attachments to exterior veneers (brick, masonry; stone) and to cantilevered floor overhangs or bay windows are prohibited (see Figures 17 and 18). In such cases the

Figure 17. No Attachment to or Through Exterior Veneers (Brick, Masonry, Stone)



deck shall be free-standing (see FREE-STANDING DECKS).

Figure 18. No Attachment to House Overhang



LEDGER BOARD FASTENERS

Only those fasteners noted below are permitted. LEAD ANCHORS ARE PROHIBITED.

Deck ledger connection to band joist or rim board.
The connection between a deck ledger and a 2-inch

nominal lumber band joist (1-1/2" actual) or EWP rim board bearing on a sill plate or wall plate shall be constructed with 1/2" lag screws or bolts with washers per Table 5 and Figure 19 (see MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS).

Table 5. Fastener Spacing for a Southern Pine, Douglas Fir-Larch, or Hem-Fir Deck Ledger and a 2-inch Nominal Solid-Sawn Spruce-Pine-Fir^{7,9} Band Joist or EWP Rim Board⁶
(Deck Live Load = 40 psf, Deck Dead Load = 10 psf)^{3,6}

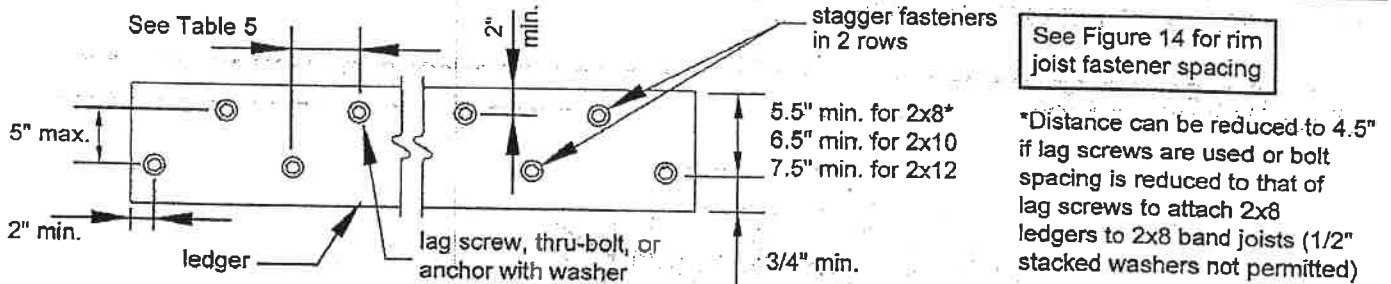
Joist Span	Rim Board or Band Joist	6'-0"	6'-1"	8'-1"	10'-1"	12'-1"	14'-1"	16'-1"
		and less	to 8'-0"	to 10'-0"	to 12'-0"	to 14'-0"	to 16'-0"	to 18'-0"
Connection Details		On-Center Spacing of Fasteners^{4,5}						
1/2" diameter lag screw with 15/32" maximum sheathing ¹	1" EWP ⁶	24"	18"	14"	12"	10"	9"	8"
	1-1/8" EWP ⁶	28"	21"	16"	14"	12"	10"	9"
	1-1/2" Lumber ^{7,9}	30"	23"	18"	15"	13"	11"	10"
1/2" diameter bolt with 15/32" maximum sheathing	1" EWP ⁶	24"	18"	14"	12"	10"	9"	8"
	1-1/8" EWP ⁶	28"	21"	16"	14"	12"	10"	9"
	1-1/2" Lumber ^{7,9}	36"	36"	34"	29"	24"	21"	19"
1/2" diameter bolt with 15/32" maximum sheathing and 1/2" stacked washers ^{2,3}	1" EWP ⁶	24"	18"	14"	12"	10"	9"	8"
	1-1/8" EWP ⁶	28"	21"	16"	14"	12"	10"	9"
	1-1/2" Lumber ^{7,9}	36"	36"	29"	24"	21"	18"	16"

¹ The tip of the lag screw shall fully extend beyond the inside face of the band joist.
² The maximum gap between the face of the ledger board and face of the wall sheathing shall be 1/2".
³ Ledgers shall be flashed or caulked to prevent water from contacting the house band joist (see Figures 14, 15, and 16).
⁴ Lag screws and bolts shall be staggered per Figure 19.
⁵ Deck ledgers shall be minimum 2x8 pressure-preservative-treated No.2 grade lumber, or other approved materials as established by standard engineering practice.
⁶ When solid-sawn pressure-preservative-treated deck ledgers are attached to engineered wood products (minimum 1" thick wood structural panel band joist or structural composite lumber including laminated veneer lumber), the ledger attachment shall be designed in accordance with accepted engineering practice. Tabulated values based on 300 lbs and 350 lbs for 1" and 1-1/8" EWP rim board, respectively.
⁷ A minimum 1"x9 1/2" Douglas fir-larch laminated veneer lumber rim board shall be permitted in lieu of the 2" nominal band joist.
⁸ Wood structural panel sheathing, gypsum board sheathing, or foam sheathing not exceeding one inch thickness shall be permitted. The maximum distance between the face of the ledger board and the face of the band joist shall be one inch.
⁹ Fastener spacing also applies to southern pine, Douglas fir-larch, and hem-fir band joists.

Placement of lag screws or bolts in deck ledgers
 The lag screws or bolts shall be placed as shown in Figure 19. The lag screws or bolts shall be staggered from the top to the bottom along the horizontal run of

the deck ledger (see Figure 19). Proper installation of lag screws or bolts shall be verified by the authority having jurisdiction.

Figure 19: Ledger Board Fastener Spacing and Clearances



Thru-Bolts

Thru-bolts shall have a diameter of 1/2". Pilot holes for thru-bolts shall be 17/32" to 9/16" in diameter. Thru-bolts require washers at the bolt head and nut.

Minimum spacing and embedment length shall be per the manufacturer's recommendations. All anchors must have washers.

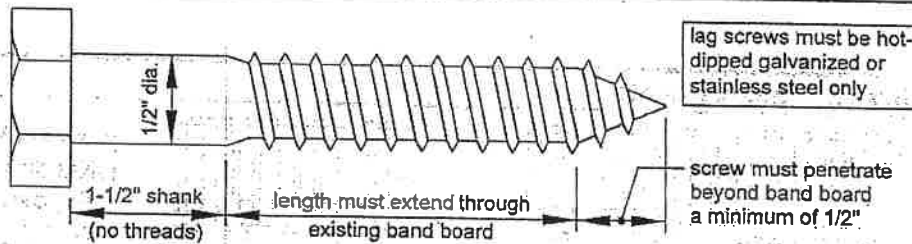
Expansion and Adhesive Anchors

Use approved expansion or adhesive anchors when attaching a ledger board to a concrete or solid masonry wall as shown in Figure 15 or a hollow masonry wall with a grouted cell as shown in Figure 16. Expansion and adhesive anchor bolts shall have a diameter of 1/2".

Lag Screws

Lag screws shall have a diameter of 1/2" (see MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS). Lag screws may be used only when the field conditions conform to those shown in Figure 14. See Figure 20 for lag screw length and shank requirements. All lag screws shall be installed with washers.

Figure 20: Lag Screw Requirements



Lag screw installation requirements: Each lag screw shall have pilot holes drilled as follows: 1) Drill a 1/2" diameter hole in the ledger board, 2) Drill a 5/16" diameter hole into the band board of the existing house. **DO NOT DRILL A 1/2" DIAMETER HOLE INTO THE BAND BOARD.**

The threaded portion of the lag screw shall be inserted into the pilot hole by turning. **DO NOT DRIVE LAG SCREWS WITH A HAMMER.** Use soap or a wood-compatible lubricant as required to facilitate tightening. Each lag screw shall be thoroughly tightened (snug but not over-tightened to avoid wood damage).

Diagonal Bracing: Provide diagonal bracing both parallel and perpendicular to the beam at each post as shown in Figure 22. When parallel to the beam, the bracing shall be bolted to the post at one end and beam at the other. When perpendicular to the beam, the bracing shall be bolted to the post at one end and a joist or blocking between joists at the other. When a joist does not align with the bracing location, provide blocking between the adjacent joists. Decks attached to the house as shown in Figure 23A do not require diagonal bracing perpendicular to the house. Diagonal bracing parallel to the house may be omitted at the beam adjacent to the house for a free-standing deck attached as shown in Figure 23.

Free-standing Deck - Attachment to House: Attach the deck rim joist to the existing house exterior wall as shown in Figure 23 for a free-standing deck. The wall must be sheathed with minimum 3/8" wood structural panel sheathing. Use lag screws or thru-bolts when fastening to an existing band joist or wall stud; use expansion anchors or epoxy anchors when fastening to

concrete or masonry. **DO NOT ATTACH TO BRICK VENEERS. VERIFY THIS CONDITION IN THE FIELD PRIOR TO UTILIZING THIS METHOD.** Fasteners shall be 16" on center and staggered in 2 rows for free-standing decks. Flashing over the rim joist is required and must be installed in accordance with the flashing provisions in the LEDGER ATTACHMENT REQUIREMENTS.

Deck Supported by Ledger - Attachment to House: Where supported by attachment to an exterior wall (Figures 14, 15, or 16), decks shall be positively anchored to the primary structure and designed for both vertical and lateral loads as applicable [R502.2.2]. The lateral load connection required shall be permitted to be in accordance with Figure 23A. Hold down tension devices shall be provided in not less than two locations per deck, and each device shall have an allowable stress design capacity of not less than 1,500 lb [R502.2.2.3]. See the *Commentary* to this document for additional information on applicability of this provision.

Figure 23. Attachment of Free-Standing Deck to House for Deck Stability

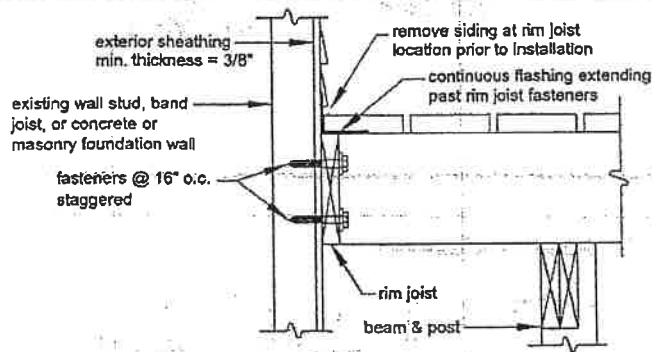
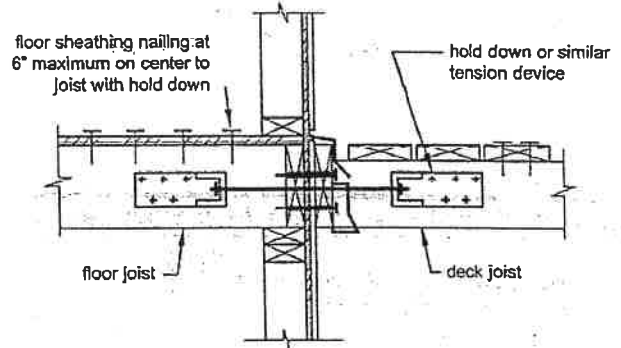


Figure 23A. Example of a Lateral Load Device for a Deck Attached to a House with a Ledger

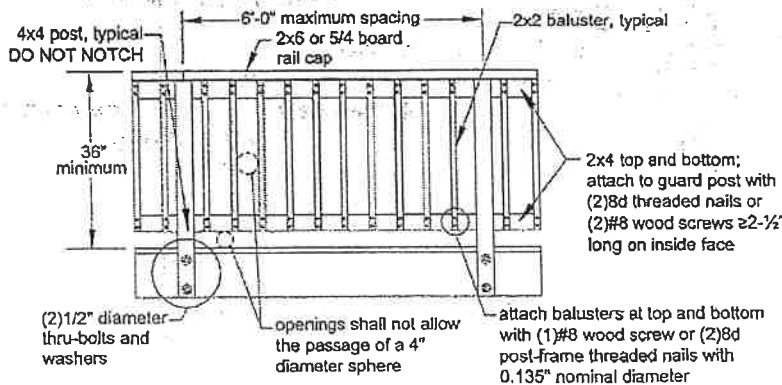


GUARD REQUIREMENTS

All decks greater than 30" above grade are required to have a guard [R312.1] - one example is shown in Figure

24. Other methods and materials may be used for guard construction when approved by the authority having jurisdiction.

Figure 24. Example Guard Detail



GUARD POST ATTACHMENTS

Deck guard posts shall be a minimum 4x4 (nominal) with an adjusted bending design value not less than 1,100 psi.

Guard posts for guards which run parallel to the deck joists shall be attached to the outside joist per Figure 25. Guard posts for guards that run perpendicular to the deck

joists shall be attached to the rim joist in accordance with Figure 26. Only hold down anchor models meeting these minimum requirements shall be used. Hold down anchors shall have a minimum allowable tension load of 1,800 pounds for a 36" maximum rail height and be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Figure 25. Guard Post to Outside Joist Example

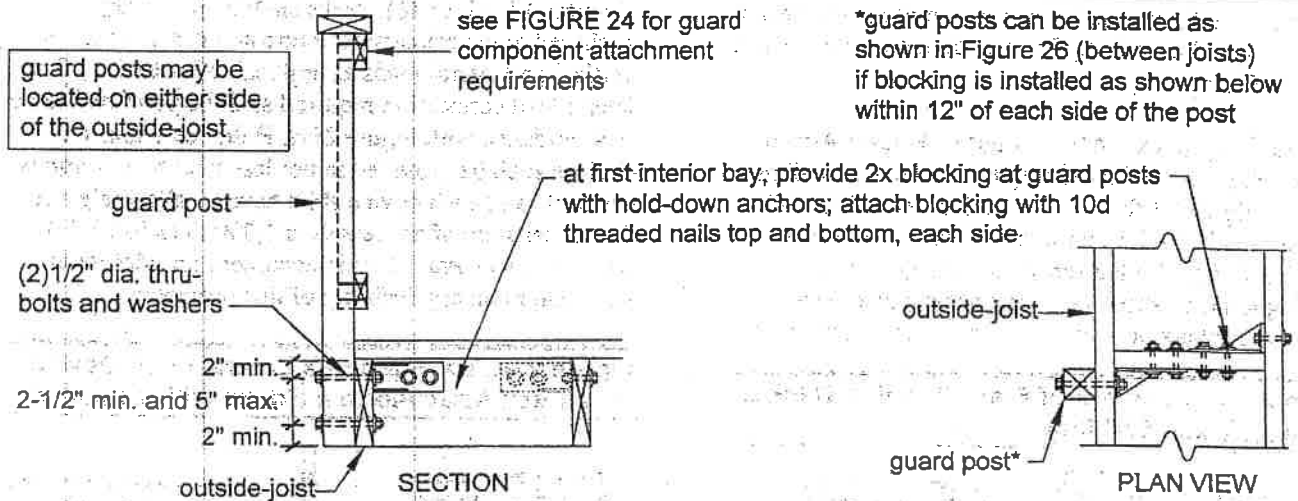
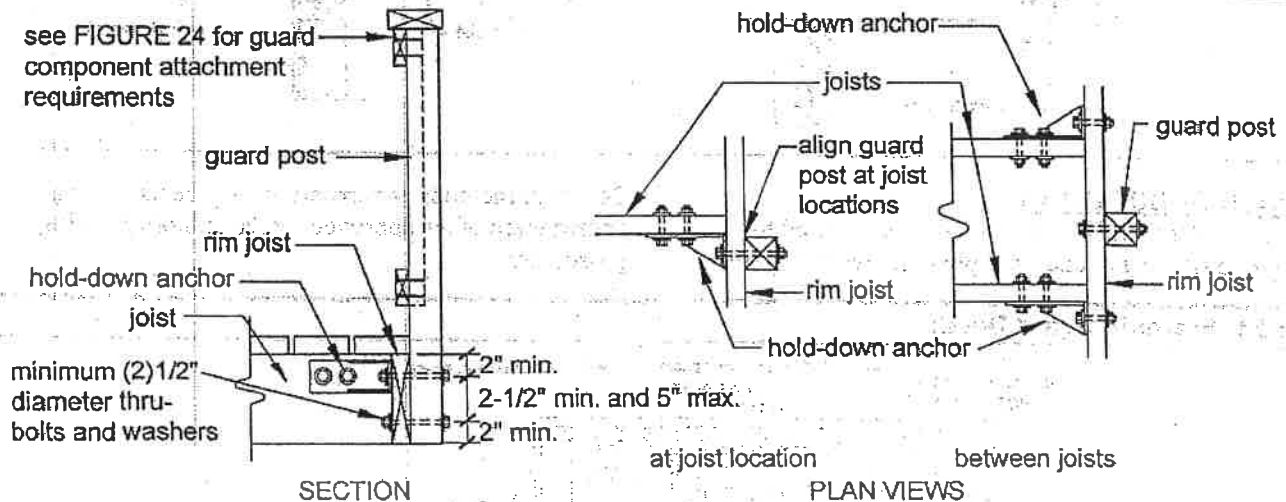


Figure 26. Guard Post to Rim Joist Example



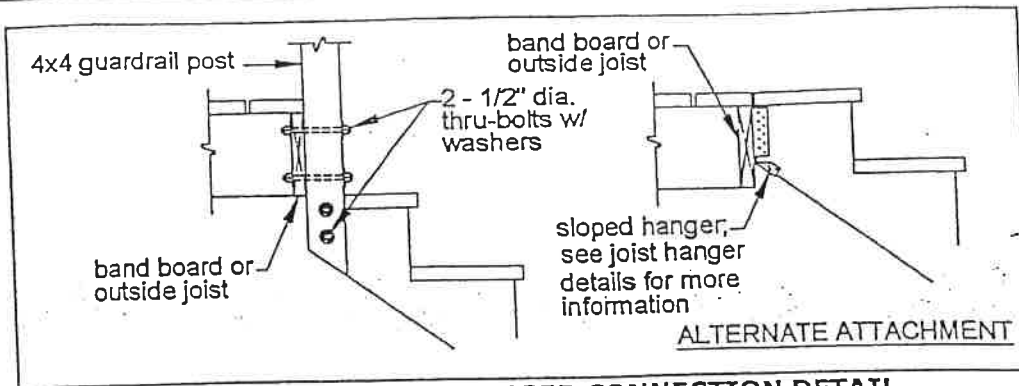


FIGURE 29: STAIR STRINGER CONNECTION DETAIL

STAIR HANDRAIL REQUIREMENTS

All stairs with 4 or more risers shall have a handrail on one side. Handrails shall be graspable and shall be composed of decay-resistant and/or corrosion resistant material. The hand grip portion shall not be more than 2-5/8" in cross section or the shape shall provide an equivalent gripping surface and shall have a smooth surface with no sharp corners. Handrails shall run continuously from a point directly over the lowest riser to a point directly over the highest riser and shall return to the guardrail at each end; see FIGURE 30. Handrails may be interrupted at guardrails posts only at a turn in the stair. See FIGURE 31.

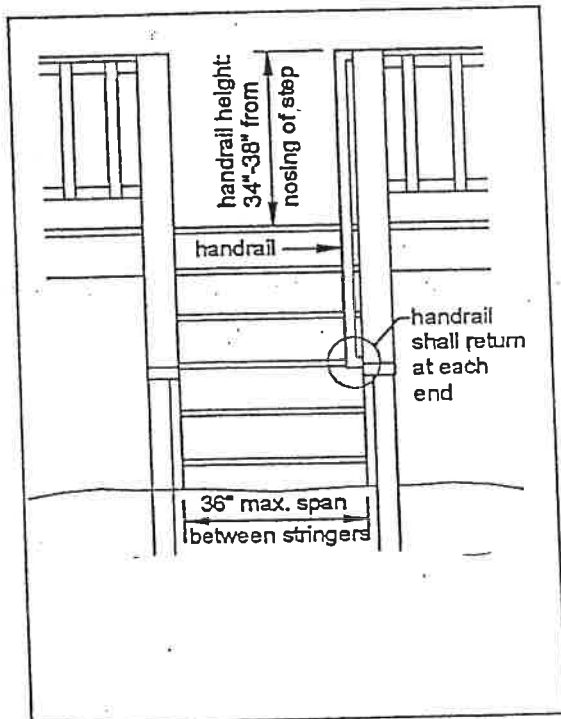


FIGURE 30: MISCELLANEOUS STAIR REQUIREMENTS

R311.7.7 Handrails. Handrails shall be provided on at least one side of each continuous run of treads or flight with four or more risers.

R311.7.7.1 Height. Handrail height, measured vertically from the sloped plane adjoining the tread nosing, or finish surface of ramp slope, shall be not less than 30 inches (762 mm) and not more than 38 inches (965 mm).

Exceptions:

1. The use of a volute, turnout or starting easing shall be allowed over the lowest tread.

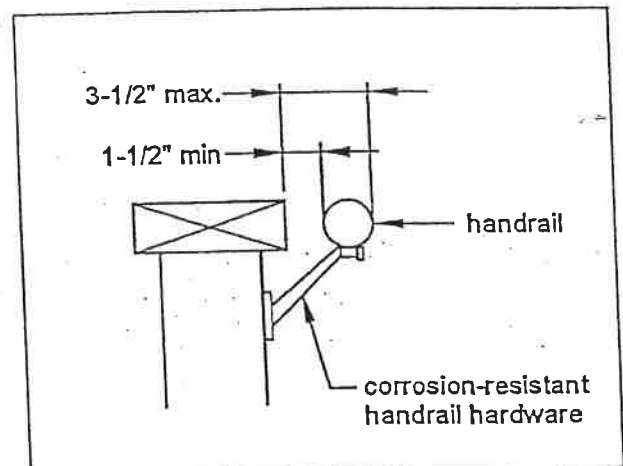


FIGURE 31: HANDRAIL REQUIREMENTS

2. When handrail fittings or bendings are used to provide continuous transition between flights, the transition from handrail to guardrail, or used at the start of a flight, the handrail height at the fittings or bendings shall be permitted to exceed the maximum height.

R311.7.7.2 Continuity. Handrails for stairways shall be continuous for the full length of the flight, from a point directly above the top riser of the flight to a point directly above the lowest riser of the flight. Handrail ends shall be returned or shall terminate in newel posts or safety terminals. Handrails adjacent to a wall shall have a space of not less than 1 1/2 inch (38 mm) between the wall and the handrails.

Exceptions:

1. Handrails shall be permitted to be interrupted by a newel post at the turn.
2. The use of a volute, turnout, starting easing or starting newel shall be allowed over the lowest tread.

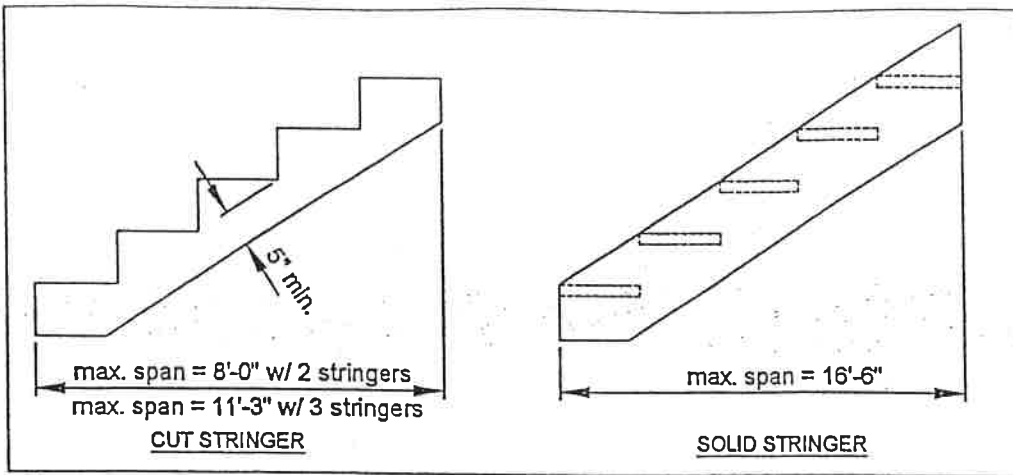


FIGURE 26: STAIR STRINGER REQUIREMENTS

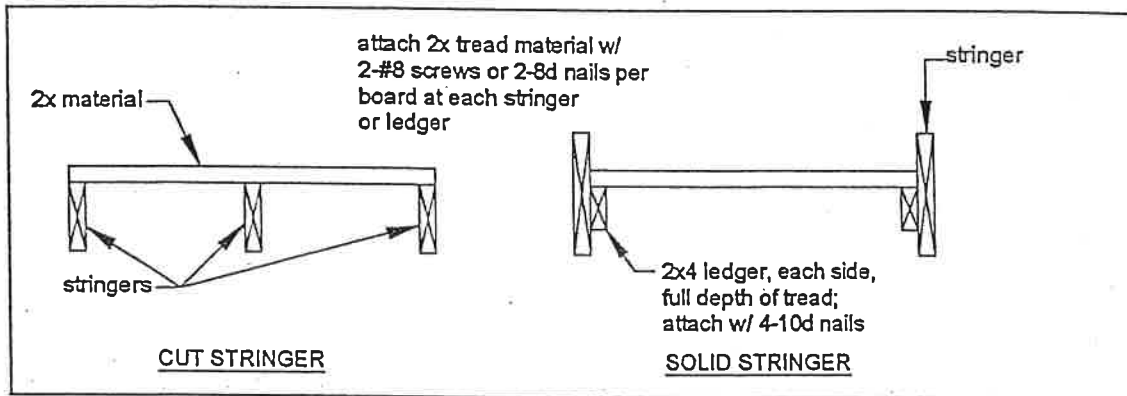


FIGURE 27: TREAD CONNECTION REQUIREMENTS

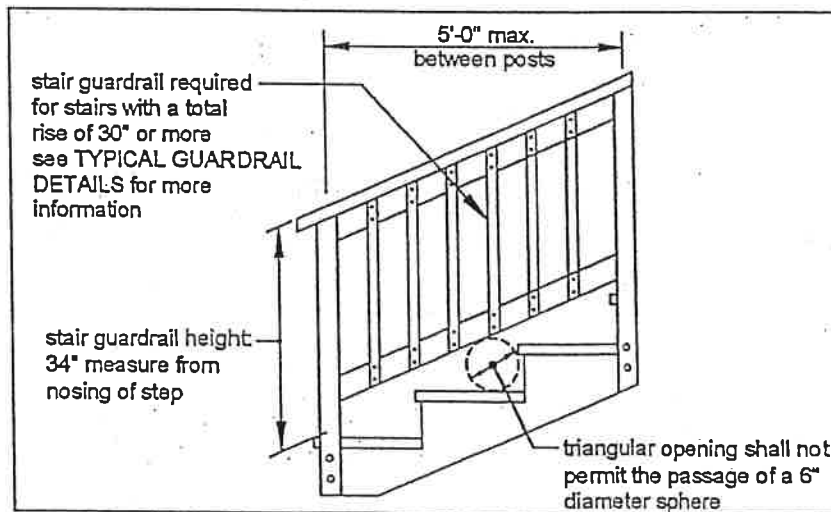
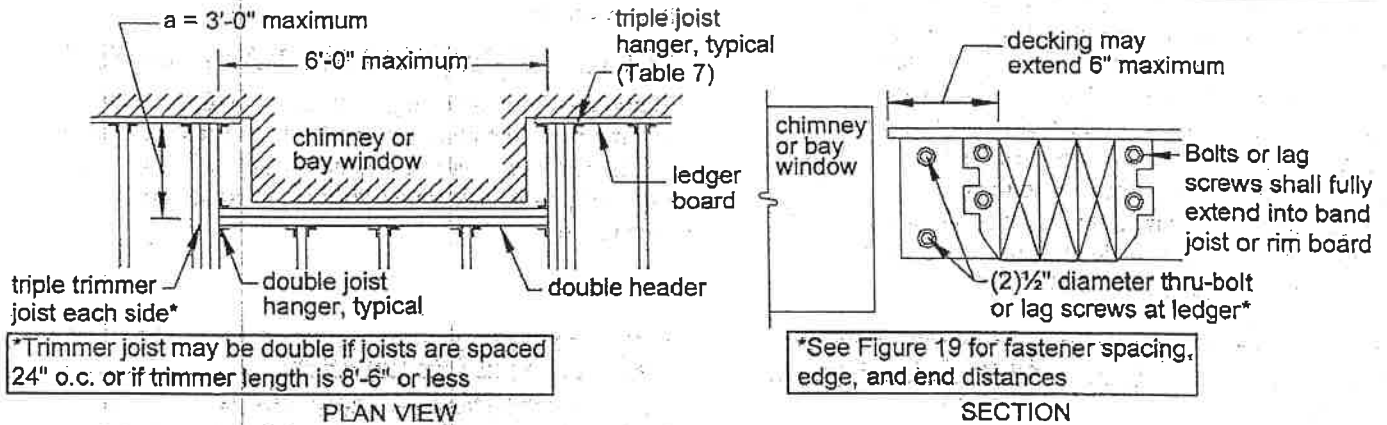


FIGURE 28: STAIR GUARDRAIL REQUIREMENTS

Figure 35: Detail for Framing Around a Chimney or Bay Window



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Traditional and Engineered Wood Products

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