Building a Deck? Here are Some Tips

When planning your deck, consider the safety of your family and guests. A deck is an uncovered, outdoor structural floor system that is expected to endure changing weather and carry significant loads over many years. Careful material selection, design, installation, plus periodic inspection and maintenance are keys to long-term performance and structural stability.

Once you have decided on the basic size, shape, and location of your deck, check local building codes to find out if there are restrictions as to height and size within your community. Contact your local building department for any specific requirements and guidelines they may have, and find out if a building permit is required before you build your deck.

- **LEDGER**. The placement of the ledger determines the level of the deck floor, so be sure it is positioned at the correct height and is horizontal. In positioning the ledger, don't forget to allow for the thickness of the decking which will be above the ledger level. Improperly attached ledger boards are a major cause of deck collapses. Anchor it securely to the house using bolts, depending on composition of the wall. Note: The deck must be structurally supported on all sides.

- **JOISTS**. Posts support the decking. Place joists a maximum of 16” from centre to centre. Use joist hangers if needed for extra support. Shorter spans between joists will help to minimize warping and twisting of deck boards as they dry. Also avoid designs with long cantilevers unsecured at one end; check with your local building code department on maximum cantilever allowed.

- **RAILINGS**. Install posts for railing. These can be a continuation of the posts which support the deck; or, railing posts may be bolted to the outside joist or joist extensions. Using the deck posts provides sturdy railing support. Intermittent posts, or spacer posts, can be used between the main support posts. Cross members can be nailed to posts at desired height. The aesthetics of your deck are most obvious in your choice of a railing. Many options are available to you; make sure you choose a design that meets your building codes.

- **POSTS**. Posts can be secured to a concrete pier or set in the ground. Check with a code official to decide which method is best for you. Footings should extend below the frost line.

- **BEAMS**. Use three 3” nails at intervals of 12” to 16” to make the beam. Use 3” framing angles to attach the beam to the posts.

- **STAIRS**. Purchasing pre-cut step stringers eliminates difficult angle cutting and makes stair construction easier.

- **DECKING**. Separate deck boards as follows to allow for expansion and contraction. If heavy and wet, separate boards no more than 1/16” as some shrinkage will occur. If light and dry, separate boards about 1/4” to allow for swelling. Screws take longer to drive than nails, but hold boards more securely and will allow for easier removal if necessary. If a board is bowed, install it with the crown up. Gravity and the weight of people and furniture will flatten it.

This information is meant for general guidance. Check with local building codes before beginning your project.
Selecting the Right Material
Each Application

Wolmanized® Outdoor® Wood, is a trusted brand, tough enough to stand up to termites and fungal decay, and versatile enough to be used in all types of natural environments. It combines the beauty of real wood with the most popular, widely accepted preservative and a limited warranty against termites and fungal decay.

Preserved wood is chosen by contractors and do-it-yourselfers for a variety of reasons:
• It comes from a plentiful and renewable resource
• Its resistance to termites and rot is well established
• It is usually the most economical choice
• It has a naturally beautiful appearance
• It is flexible and easy to work with using common tools
• It is easy and inexpensive to maintain

It is important to choose the right wood for the intended application. Each piece of treated wood has an end tag that lets you know for which use the wood is intended. These end use descriptions refer to the types of conditions in which the wood is intended to perform.

Use & Handling Tips

• Dispose of treated wood by ordinary trash collection. TREATED WOOD SHOULD NOT BE BURNED in open fires or in stoves, fireplaces or residential boilers.
• When sawing, sanding, and machining wood, wear a dust mask. Avoid frequent or prolonged inhalation of sawdust from wood, treated or untreated. Whenever possible, these operations should be performed outdoors.
• Wear gloves when working with wood. Wear goggles to protect eyes from flying particles. Use proper techniques when lifting.
• After working with wood, and before eating, drinking, toileting, or using tobacco products, wash exposed skin areas thoroughly.
• Because sawdust may accumulate on clothes, they should be laundered before reuse. Wash work clothes separately from other household clothing.
• Check the lumber end-tag. Make sure that the intended use shown on the tag matches your application.
• For 2” lumber, use 3 1/4” nails or 3” screws. For 5/4 decking, use 3” nails or 2 1/2” screws.

Recommended Hardware
Hot-dipped galvanized fasteners (meeting ASTM A 153) and connectors (ASTM A 653 Class G185 sheet), or better, are recommended for protection against the effects of moisture often present where treated wood is used. For Permanent Wood Foundations, use 304 or 316 stainless steel. Aluminum should not be used in direct contact with this wood.

End Cuts
• Liberally coat all cut ends, holes, or other intrusions into the wood with a suitable wood preservative product containing 2% copper as coppernaphthenate.
• Do not put freshly cut ends on or in the ground. Orient supporting posts so that original factory-treated ends are in contact with the ground. Trim the top ends as needed and cover them with post caps or cut them at angles to shed water and treat with a brush-on preservative.

Maintenance Tips
• No maintenance is needed to renew resistance to fungi and termites. Wolmanized® Outdoor® Wood has a limited warranty against these organisms. Warranty terms and conditions are available at www.wolmanizedwood.com.
• Depending upon exposure and weather conditions, colour longevity can vary. Upon external exposure the brown colour slowly weathers to a warm honey brown colour and in the longer term becomes a natural silver grey. If required the brown colour can be refreshed with a suitable brush-on product. This weathering process does not indicate any loss of preservative protection.