City of Spring Hill
199 Town Center Parkway
P.O. Box 789

Spring Hill, TN 37174
Phone 931-486-2252 Ext. 211
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Residential Deck Information

The following is a **GENERAL** listing of building code information for a STANDARD deck (without a roof, hot tub, enclosure, etc.) constructed within the City of Spring Hill. It is for information purposes only and is not to be construed to be the Spring Hill City Building Code in its entirety. Nor does this information provide design specifications, which may be unique to the building site conditions.

DESIGN CRITERIA	• Minimum design live load for a standard deck is 40 pounds per square foot	R301.5
FOOTING SIZE	• Minimum - 8" thick; 16" diameter or square, centered under the posts	Spring Hill Standard
FOOTING DEPTH	• Minimum 12" from finished grade to the bottom of the footing on natural soil	Table R301.2 (1)
LUMBER	• Decay-resistant and termite-resistant wood	R319.1.2
BAND BOARD & CONNECTION OF THE DECK TO THE HOUSE	• Minimum size of ledger band - same size as joist • 1/2 " or larger carriage bolts, lags or expansion bolts • The deck is required to be constructed freestanding if the bolted connection of the ledger band is not visible for inspection from inside the house, or if it is connected to a pre-engineered floor system, or to cantilevered joists, or to brick veneer	502.2.2 Spring Hill Standard 502.2.2
Floor Joist	• Maximum clear span based on R502.3.1 (2) – 40lb live load, 10 lb dead load • Minimum 1 1/2" bearing at ends of joists - use joist hangers or 2x2 ledger • Maximum cantilever – 2 feet	R502.3.1 (2) 502.6.2 Spring Hill Standard
BEAMS	• Minimum 3" bearing • Beam-to-post connection, minimum one 1/2" carriage bolts per notched post • Maximum cantilever - 2 feet	R502.6 Spring Hill Standard Spring Hill Standard
GUARDRAILS	• Required when floor surface of deck is 30" or more above finished grade • Height - 36" minimum, intermediate 4x4 posts, spaced 8 feet on center maximum • Pickets (horizontal or vertical) spaced to prevent passage of a 4" sphere	R312.1 Spring Hill Standard R312.2
STAIRWAY	• Design load - 40 psf or concentrated load of 300 lb • Closed risers are required when 30" or more above grade, or 3 risers • Tread length minimum = 10" • Riser height maximum = 7 3/4" +/- 3/8" top to bottom of steps	Table R301.5 R311.5.3.3 R311.5.3.2 R311.5.3.1

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	• Landing at top and bottom, artificial light for treads	R311.5.4, R303.6
HANDRAIL	• Required on at least one side of stairs with 4 or more risers or 30" high • Located 34" to 38" above the nosing of the tread • Graspable shape with a grip size 1 1/4" minimum to 2" maximum	R312.1 R311.5.6.1 R311.5.6.3
CONNECTORS AND FASTENERS	• Corrosion-resistant coating or stainless steel. All metal must be compatible with chemicals used to treat the lumber.	R319.3
REQUIRED INSPECTIONS	• FOOTING - Prior to the placement of concrete • LOW DECK FRAMING (If deck is less than 36" from grade) • FINAL	

These tables are taken from existing tables in the 2006 International Residential Code. Other materials, configurations or engineered designs may be utilized that fall within the guidelines of this code.

TABLE 1: JOIST SPAN CHART
Spacing of Joists o.c.

JOIST SIZE	12"	16"	19.2"	24"
2" x 6"	10'-9"	9'-9"	9'-2"	8'-6"
2" x 8"	14'-2"	12'-10"	12'-1"	11'-0"
2" x 10"	18'-0"	16'-1"	14'-8"	13'-1"
2" x 12"	21'-9"	18'-10"	17'-2"	15'-5"

Note: Above span length are clear span dimensions between bearing points. (Based on No. 2 pine)

TABLE 2: DECK POST SIZING

POST HEIGHT	WOOD POST SIZE	ROUND METAL (Sch. 40)
0" to 8'-0"	4" x 4"	3" Dia.
8' to 12'	6" x 6"	3" Dia.

Note: Call the Codes office if your posts are greater than 12 feet in height or have provide an engineered design.