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RESIDENTIAL DECK BUILDING CODE

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Adding a deck to your home can provide beautification, relaxation and value to your home. If you are thinking about adding a deck to your property this guide will help answer some of the more common questions residents usually have about the process¹.

The process involves 4 basic steps:

- 1.) Plan submission and application(s)
- 2.) Zoning & Building Code reviews
- 3.) Construction
- 4.) Inspections
- 5.) Final use and occupancy inspection

After you submit your plans and receive approval, you can begin construction and then schedule your final inspection upon completion.

Applications can be downloaded from www.muhlenbergtp.com. Decks require both a Zoning application as well as a Residential Building Permit Application. Three (3) sets of required structural drawings and a plot plan must be submitted by either a) the applicant or b) a professional design firm².

The application and plans are then reviewed by the Zoning Official as well as the Building Code Official. Zoning has 30 days to complete their review and the Building Code Official has 15 days to comment and/or approve the deck construction.

PLANS & DESIGN MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Footing details showing footing diameter and footing depth.
- Post details showing post locations, post size and spacing. Post anchorage details to footing foundation.
- Header, girder and beam sizes.
- Post to beam connection details.
- Floor joist size, floor joist spacing and spans.
- Ledger board connection, type of bolts/fasteners and spacing of bolts/fasteners.
- Flashing details.
- Cross bracing details.
- Type of weather resistive lumber and materials used for deck.
- Types of fasteners.
- Location and type of tension hold down devices used.
- Hand rail heights.
- Guard heights and spindle spacing.
- Stair tread and riser requirements.
- Stair design and guard rail/graspable rail designs.
- Type of deck construction. (e.g freestanding, attached etc.)

1 Decks less than 30 inches from grade do not require Building Code review or approvals.

2 Muhlenberg Township cannot by law design proposed deck.