



Supervisor
Mark W. Assini

Town of Gates
1605 Buffalo Road
Rochester, NY 14624-1637
585-247-6100

Town Council
Lee A. Cordero
David R. DiCaro
Christopher B. DiPonzio
Steve Tucciarello

Decks: What you need to know

- A building permit is required before you begin work. You need to provide a copy of your survey map of the property, a building permit application and building plans for the deck showing, but not limited to, location, dimensions, building materials and framing design.
- We cannot design your project for you, but will check your drawings against the span tables and other code requirements to be sure your design complies.
- Posts must extend a minimum of 42 inches below grade and post holes must be at least 12 inches wide.
- All fasteners must be corrosion-resistant and appropriate for the particular type of materials being used.
- Guards (railings) must be provided for floor surfaces more than 30 inches above the floor or grade below and must be at least 36 inches in height. Spindle openings must be less than 4 inches wide. The triangular openings formed by stair treads, riser and guards must be less than 6 inches.
- Stairs must be at least 36 inches in clear width at all points above the permitted handrail height.
- Stair riser height must be a maximum of 8 ¼ inches and a minimum tread depth of 9 inches.
- There must be a landing at the top and bottom of each stairway with a landing area of 36 inches wide by 36 inches long.
- Handrails must not project more than 4 ½ inches on either side of the stairway.
- The minimum clear width of the stairway at or below the handrail height, including treads and landings must be at least 31 ½ inches where a handrail is installed on one side.
- Handrails must have at least 27 inches of clear width where handrails are provided on both sides.
- Handrails must be provided on at least one side of each continuous run of treads or flights with more than 3 risers.
- Handrail, measured vertically, must be at least 34 inches in height and not more than 38 inches.
- Handrails must be continuous for the full length of the flight, from the point directly above the top riser of the flight to a point directly above the lowest riser of the flight.
- Handrail grip size must be either:
 - Type 1. Handrails with a circular cross section must have an outside diameter of at least 1 ¼ inches and no greater than 2 inches. If the handrail is not circular, it must have a perimeter dimension of at least 4 inches and not greater than 6 ¼ inches with a maximum cross section of dimension of 2 ¼ inches
 - Type 2. Handrails with a perimeter of greater than 6 ¼ inches must provide a graspable finger recess area on both sides of the profile. The finger recess must begin within a distance of ¾ inch measured vertically from the tallest portion of the profile and achieve a depth of at least 5/16 inch within 7/8 inch below the widest portion of the profile. This required depth must continue for at least 3/8 inch to a level that is not less than 1 ¾ inches below the tallest portion of the profile. The minimum width of the handrail above the recess must be 1 ¼ inches to a maximum of 2 ¾ inches. Edges must have a minimum radius of 0.01 inch.