

Decks

Building code requirements as detailed in Village ordinances 175 and 475 and in the State of Wisconsin Safety and Professional Services Code 321.

Permitted Uses

175-5:

A building permit shall be completed before the construction of a deck. The permit shall be accompanied by the required fees, as well as a plat plan showing the size, location, and description of the property. Inspection of footings, foundation, framing, and completion is required and is the responsibility of the permit holder to notify the inspector.

Restrictions –

475-7(D):

A platform, deck, or stoop which serves as an exit may not protrude more than 25 square feet, not including stairs/steps or wheelchair access ramps.

General Requirements –

Wis. SPS 321.02:

Outdoor structure which serves as a raised horizontal platform constructed of wood or other materials, without enclosing walls or roof. All deck components shall be able to withstand the dead load, live load, and the wind load. Wood used shall be either pressure treated, naturally decay resistant variety, or approved composite material.

Handrails and Guardrails

Wis. SPS 321.04(3):

- Guardrails shall be present on all decks which are more than 24 inches above grade.
- Guardrails shall be located at least 36 inches above the surface of the deck.
- At least one handrail is required on the open side of the stairway for every stairway of more than 3 risers.
- Handrails shall be located at least 30 inches, but not more than 38 inches, above the nosing of the treads.
- Handrails with a round or truncated round cross sectional gripping surface shall have a maximum diameter of 2 inches. Handrails with a rectangular or other cross sectional gripping area shall have a maximum cross sectional dimension of 2-7/8 inches.
- Handrails and guardrails shall be constructed of metal or decay resistant/pressure treated wood.
- Open handrails and guardrails shall be equipped with intermediate rails or an ornamental pattern to prevent the passage of a sphere with a diameter of 4 inches or more.
- Handrails and guardrails shall be designed and constructed to withstand a 200 pound load applied in any direction.

Stairway –

Wis. SPS 321.04(2):

- Every stairway shall measure at least 3 feet in width.
- Risers shall not exceed 8 inches in height.
- Treads shall be a minimum of 9 inches wide.
- The treads and risers shall not vary by more than 3/8 of an inch for the entire run of the stairway.

Frost Penetration –

Wis. SPS 321.16:

Deck footings and foundations, including those for ramps and stoops, shall be placed below the frost penetration level or at least 48 inches below adjacent grade, whichever is deeper.

This information shall not be considered as a full comprehensive view of the Village deck code. All applicable code provisions shall be followed.

A copy of Village ordinances (with the above sections in detail) is available on the Village of Allouez website (www.villageofallouez.com), or upon request at the Village Hall. The State of Wisconsin Safety and Professional Services Code 321 is available on the State of Wisconsin's Legislative Documents website (https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/sps/safety_and_buildings_and_environment/320_325/321/vi/225).

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