

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between a deck and a patio?

A deck is 0.6 metres (2.0 ft.) or more above the ground to the highest point of the deck surface. A patio is less than 0.6 metres (2.0 ft.) from the ground.

Do I need a permit to build a deck?

Development and Building Permits are needed for a covered patio or any deck (0.6 m above ground). Open patios do not require permits. It makes no difference if the deck is freestanding or attached to the house.

Why are decks regulated?

The location and size of these structures are regulated to ensure that life safety hazards, fire and property damages and the impact on neighbours are minimized.

Are guardrails required when building a deck?

Yes, non-climbable guardrails are required around all portions of the deck or stairs that are 0.6 m above ground.

Is my deck calculated as part of my site coverage?

The combination of dwellings, accessory buildings and covered decks or covered patios are used to determine site coverage. Open decks and patios are excluded as part of site coverage.

Is the building inspection an additional expense?

No, inspections are included in the permit fees.

What is the benefit of getting permits and inspections?

- ensures work complies with all regulations
- avoids costly corrections after construction
- provides personal safety and peace of mind
- aids in the protection of your investment

www.AlbertaOneCall.com

1.800.242.3447

**Click
Before
YouDig**

**ALBERTA
ONECALL**

CONTACT US

If you have any questions or for more information contact:

Planning & Economic Development

St. Germain Place
10125 – 100 Avenue
Morinville, Alberta T8R 1L6

Phone 780.939.4361

Fax 780.939.5633

Hours

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday
Closed on statutory holidays

This brochure is for information purposes only and may be periodically updated. The contents do not necessarily reflect the legal documents and cannot be used as an official interpretation of the official bylaws, regulations and statutory plans in effect.

Revised December 2015



Morinville

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

www.morinville.ca



Like us on Facebook
[facebook.com/TownofMorinville](https://www.facebook.com/TownofMorinville)



Follow us on Twitter
Twitter @TownMorinville



**BUILDING A
DECK?**

DEVELOPMENT PERMIT

Development in Morinville, including decks, is regulated by the Land Use Bylaw.

Site Coverage:

The combination of dwellings, accessory buildings and covered decks is used to determine site coverage. Site coverage is calculated by adding the footprint of all buildings, including covered decks, and dividing that by total lot area. Maximum site coverage for most residential lots is 40%. The Development Officer can help you determine your property's site coverage.

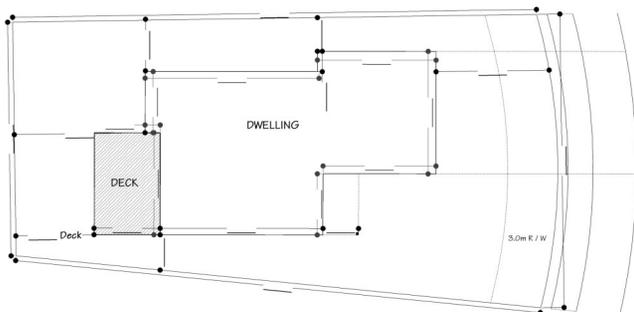
Rear and Side Yards for Decks:

In most cases, covered decks are required to be a minimum of 1.2 meters (3.9 ft.) away from any side property line, and 5.5 meters (18.0 ft.) away from any rear property line.

In most cases, open decks are required to be a minimum of:

- 0.6 metres (2.0 ft.) away from any side property line,
- 4.0 metres (13.1 ft.) away from any rear property line, and
- 4.5 metres (14.8 ft.) away from the front property line.

Each lot is unique, and the Development Officer would be happy to let you know what requirements apply to your property.



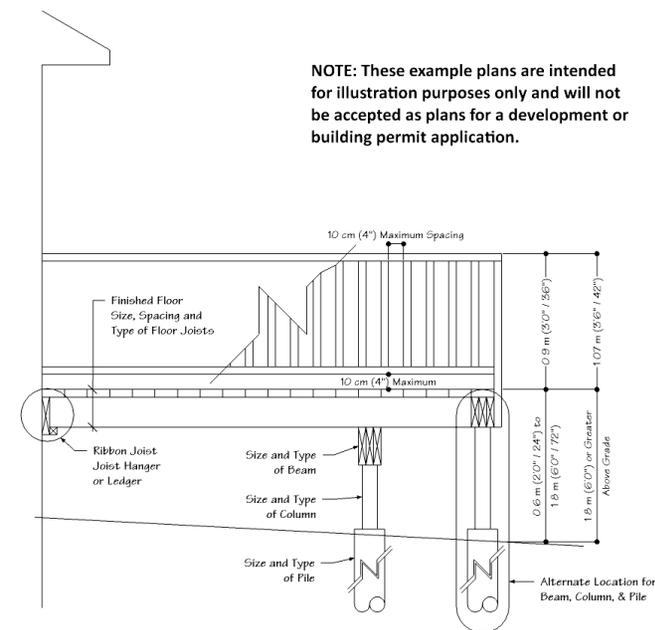
BUILDING PERMIT



Construction in Morinville is regulated by the Alberta Building Code. The intent of the Alberta Building Code is to ensure the health and safety of the owners and the general public who occupy or use the structures. The Alberta Building Code provides the minimum requirements to be met in the Province of Alberta.

Make sure you have the following before applying for permits for a deck:

- A complete Development Permit application form
- A complete Building Permit application form
- 3 copies of a site plan
- 3 copies of a cross-section illustration which shows the construction details (similar to the one above)
- Application fees
- *Note: In some cases, Professional endorsement (e.g. Engineer or Architect seal and signature) is required. Any foundation that carries a roof load (i.e. covered deck) may require engineering on the foundation.*



Please contact us if you are undertaking maintenance on your existing deck. Extensive maintenance could amount to structural alterations, and you may be required to obtain permits.

How to apply for a permit

For your convenience, development and building permit applications can be applied for at the same time. Applications are available at our office or online at www.morinville.ca. Submit the completed application with the necessary plans and supporting documents (as required). Application fees are due at the time of your submission.

Our dedicated staff is always available to help you with this process. If you have questions, please feel free to call or visit our office.