



**TOWN OF AVON – BUILDING DEPARTMENT**  
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**Code Requirements for Residential Decks**

The Connecticut State Building Code sets forth design criteria that must be met in order to comply with the minimum standards of safety. The items listed below highlight some basic design requirements that need to be met.

1. Minimum frost depth for piers is 42 inches below final grade if deck is attached to structure.
2. All structural members (joists, beams, piers, posts and decking) need to achieve a 40-pound per square foot live load design.
3. All fasteners must be compatible with the type of wood used. (Ex. hot dipped galvanized)
4. Floor surfaces at 30 inches above grade or more require a guardrail designed per code.
5. Stairs that have 4 or more risers are required to have a graspable handrail with returned ends on one side of the stairs.
6. Permanently installed structures on the deck such as hot tubs or roofs, require special designs of the deck supporting them.
7. All proposed deck permits need to be approved by the town zoning, and engineering departments and the health district for compliance prior to building department approval.
8. Decks serving as access to swimming pools shall meet all pool barrier requirements.
9. Decks shall not adversely affect the proper venting of fuel burning appliances.