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Building Inspection Policy
& Procedure
No. 108

P&P 108

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ALTERNATE METHODS FOR THE LATERAL BRACING OF DECKS

Background:

In order to provide consistent and predictable requirements, the building official has elected to approve alternate methods for the lateral bracing of decks attached to existing structures.

Discussion

Decks are a common feature on homes. Decks tend to be fairly simple structures supported by posts that rest on or in isolated footings. By their very nature, decks do not have braced wall lines. In order to better serve our customers, Marion County Building Inspection will provide some acceptable alternate means of constructing decks that meet the intent of the current code.

Policy:

The following are acceptable alternative methods for the lateral bracing of new or replacement decks attached to an existing building. The following alternate methods are acceptable where the deck projects out from the building not more than 20 feet AND is less than 10 feet above adjacent grade AND the width of the deck is equal to or greater than the depth of the deck.

1. Embedding the support posts in min. 18" diameter x 30" deep footings that are below grade in undisturbed soil; or,
2. Wrap the deck around the corner of the house a minimum of six feet in each direction; or,
3. The deck is enclosed on two or more sides by exterior walls of the house.