

Deck Specs

These specifications are intended to be a helpful resource for homeowners and can be used to streamline the permit process for residential deck installations.

Note: If you are proposing to construct a deck that does not follow the specifications provided, an engineer may be required to review your proposed design and provide their seal and signature to confirm that the proposed design meets Ontario Building Code requirements.

Barrie

Summer 2026

Specifications

In this guide:

Deck Attached to Foundation Wall

Deck Not Attached to House

Section Through Stair Post and Rail Guard

Guardrail Picket Elevation Detail

Cross Section Detail - Deck Not Attached to House

Lateral Bracing Details

Bracing Parallel to Beam

Bracing Perpendicular to Beam

Wall Connection Through Siding Wall

Wall Connection Through Solid Concrete

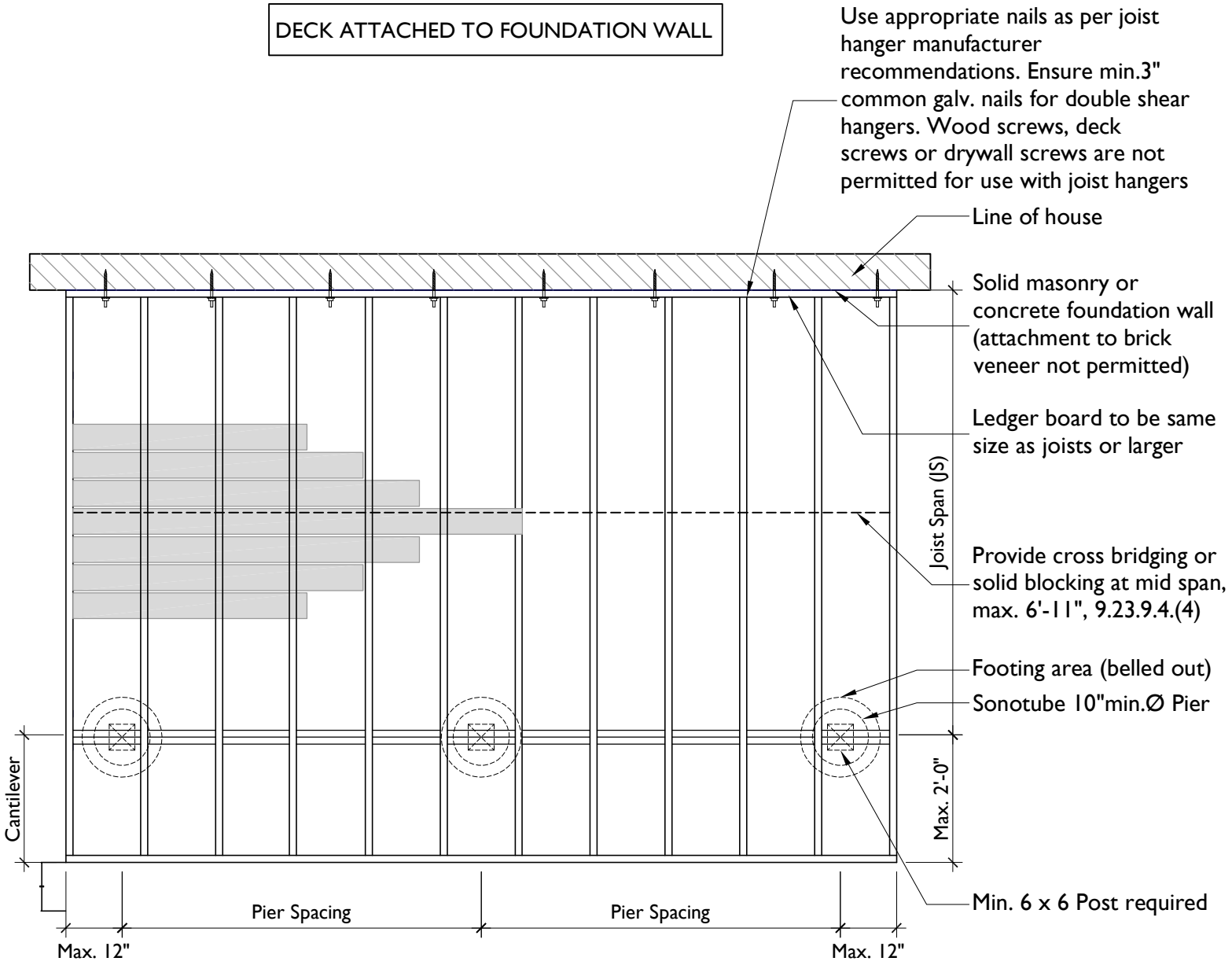
Cross Section Detail - Alternate Footing Layout

Deck Template Instructions

Deck Template - Deck not attached to a house

Deck Template - Deck attached to a house

DECK ATTACHED TO FOUNDATION WALL



Joist Sizing

Maximum Span			
Spacing (o.c)	2x8	2x10	2x12
12"	12'-6"	14'-6"	16"-5"
16"	11'-9"	13'-8"	15'-6"
24"	10'-8"	12'-10"	14'-6"

All joist sizes shall be spaced not more than 16" o.c. where the deck is more than 2'-0" above adjacent grade

Minimum Base Diameter for Pier Footing (Belled Out)

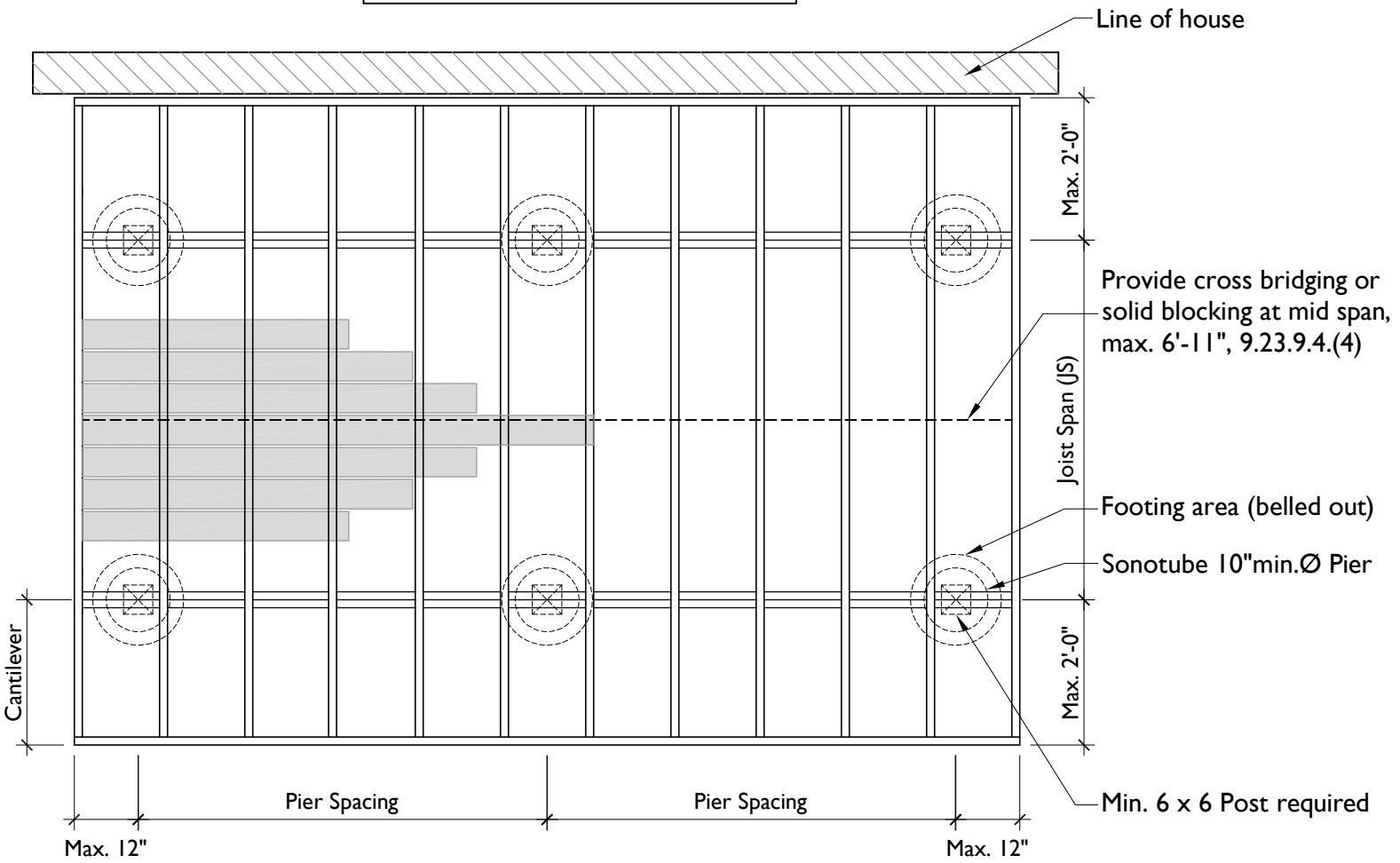
*Supported Joist Length	Pier Spacing (updated Oct 2023)			
	6'	8'	10'	12'
3'	10"	10"	10"	10"
4'	10"	10"	10"	10"
5'	10"	10"	10"	11"
6'	10"	10"	11"	12"
7'	10"	10"	11"	12"
8'	10"	10"	12"	13"

Beam Sizing

	Pier Spacing			
	6'	8'	10'	12'
2 PLY	2 - 2 x 8	2 - 2 x 10	2 - 2 x 12	-
3 PLY	3 - 2 x 6	3 - 2 x 8	3 - 2 x 10	3 - 2 x 12

* Supported joist length = half of joist span + cantilever

DECK NOT ATTACHED TO HOUSE



Joist Sizing

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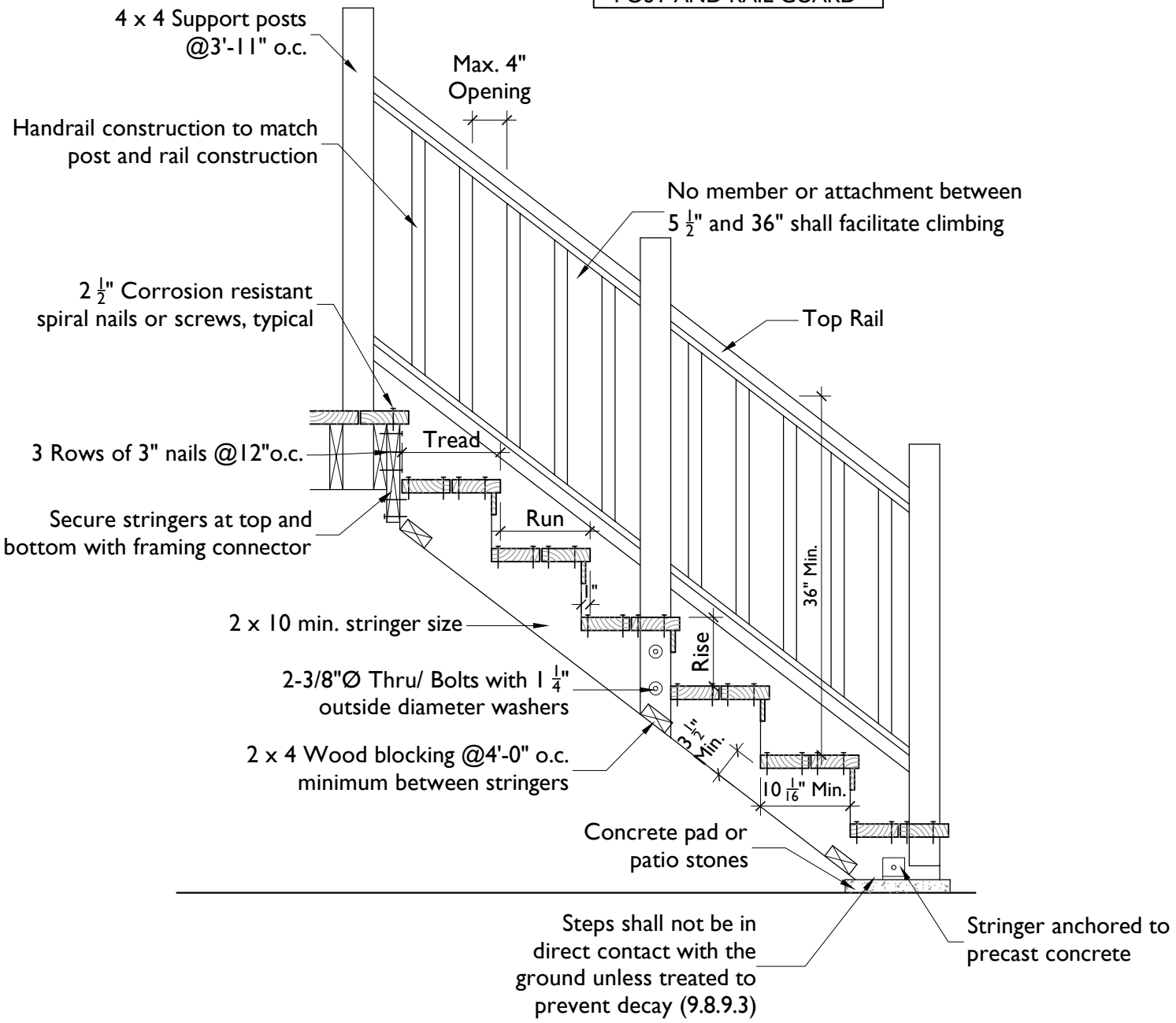
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SECTION THROUGH STAIR POST AND RAIL GUARD



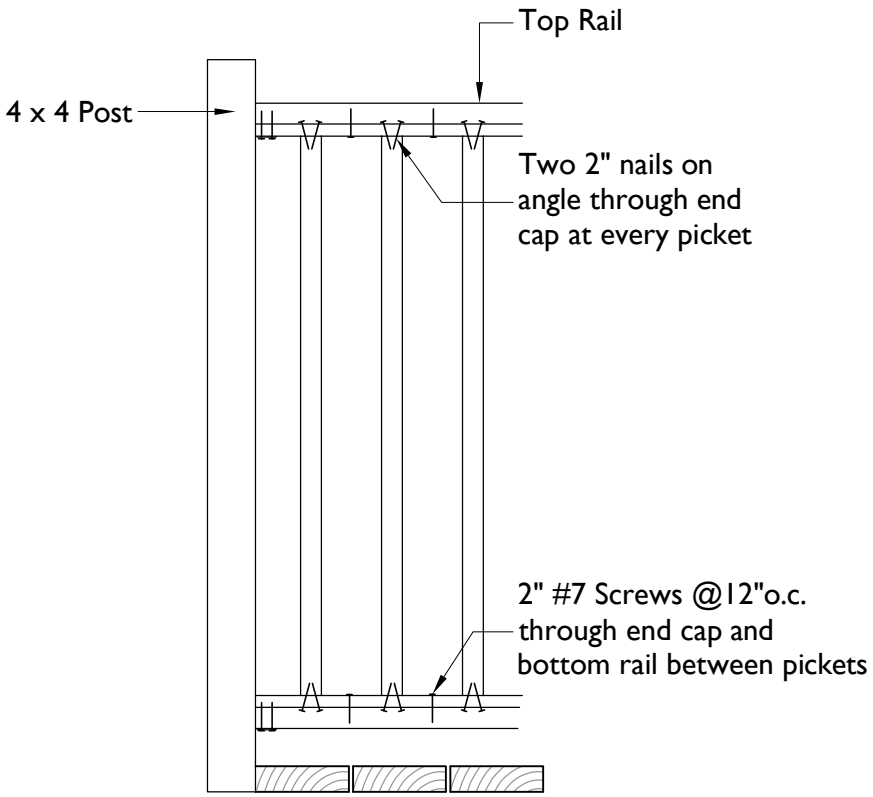
Stair Dimensions (9.8.4.2)		
Type	Min.	Max.
Rise	4 7/8" (125mm)	7 7/8" (200mm)
Run	10 1/16" (255mm)	14" (355mm)
Tread	Run	Run + 1" (25mm)

* Example Only - Guards shall comply with OBC. 9.8.8. and SB-7

* Handrail required on stairs if more than 3 risers

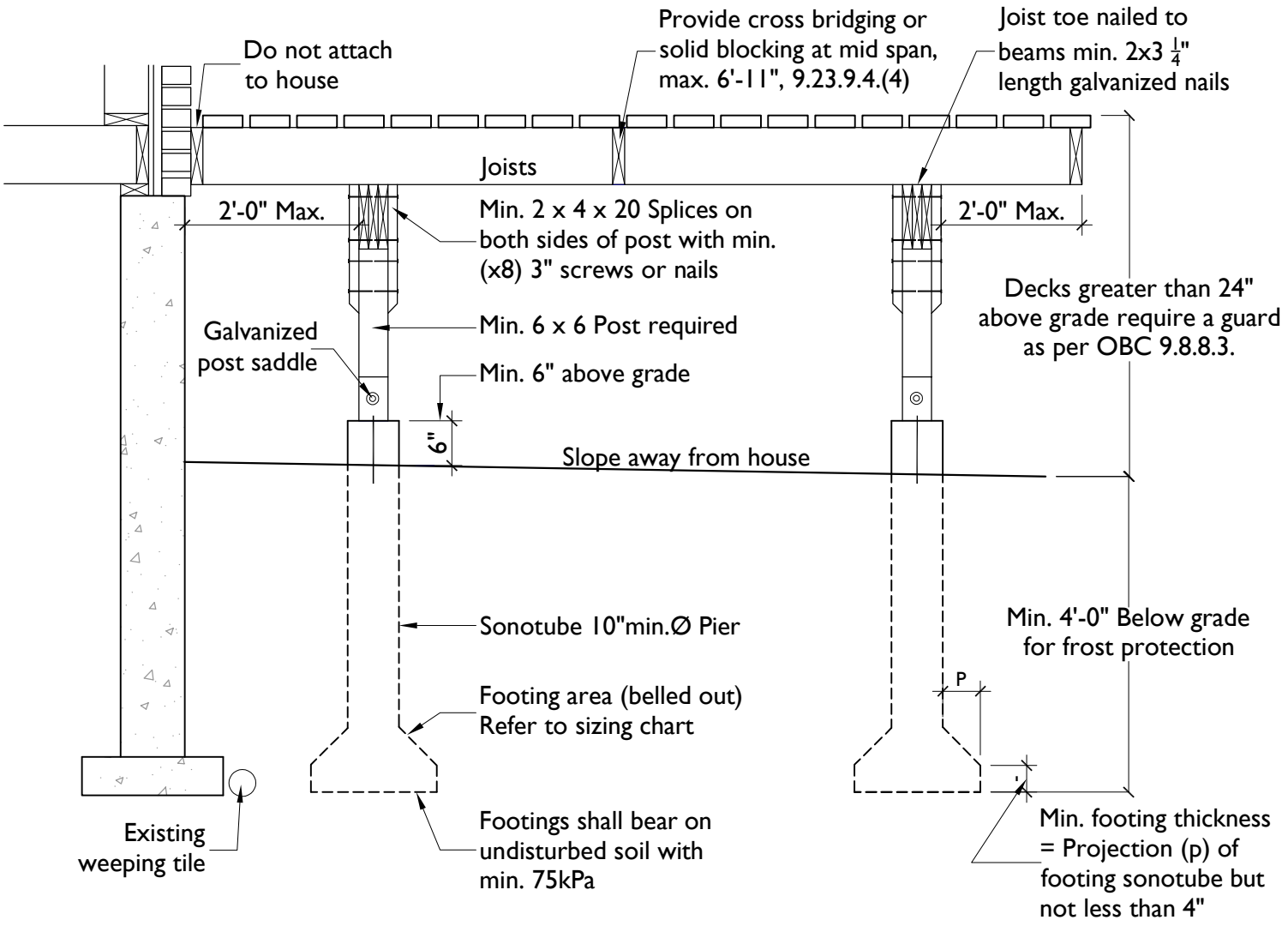
* Wood stringers shall have min. effective depth of 90mm(3 1/2") and overall min. size of 235mm(10").
Stringers to be max. 900mm(35") apart or 1200mm(47") where risers support tread, OBC. 9.8.9.4.

GUARDRAIL PICKET ELEVATION DETAIL

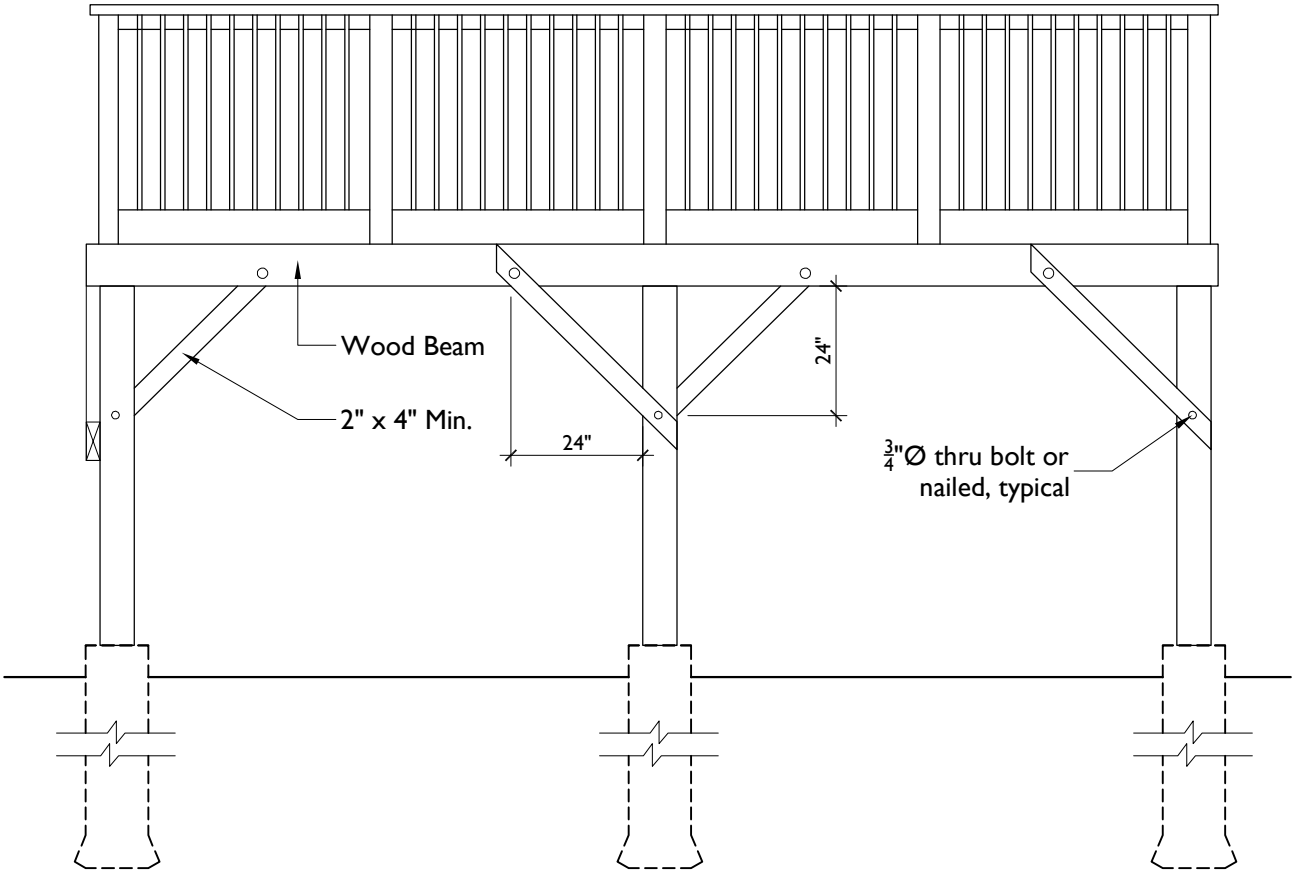


* Example Only - Guards shall comply with OBC. 9.8.8. and SB-7
* 36" Guard height for decks 5'-11" or less above grade
  42" Guard height for decks greater than 5'-11" above grade

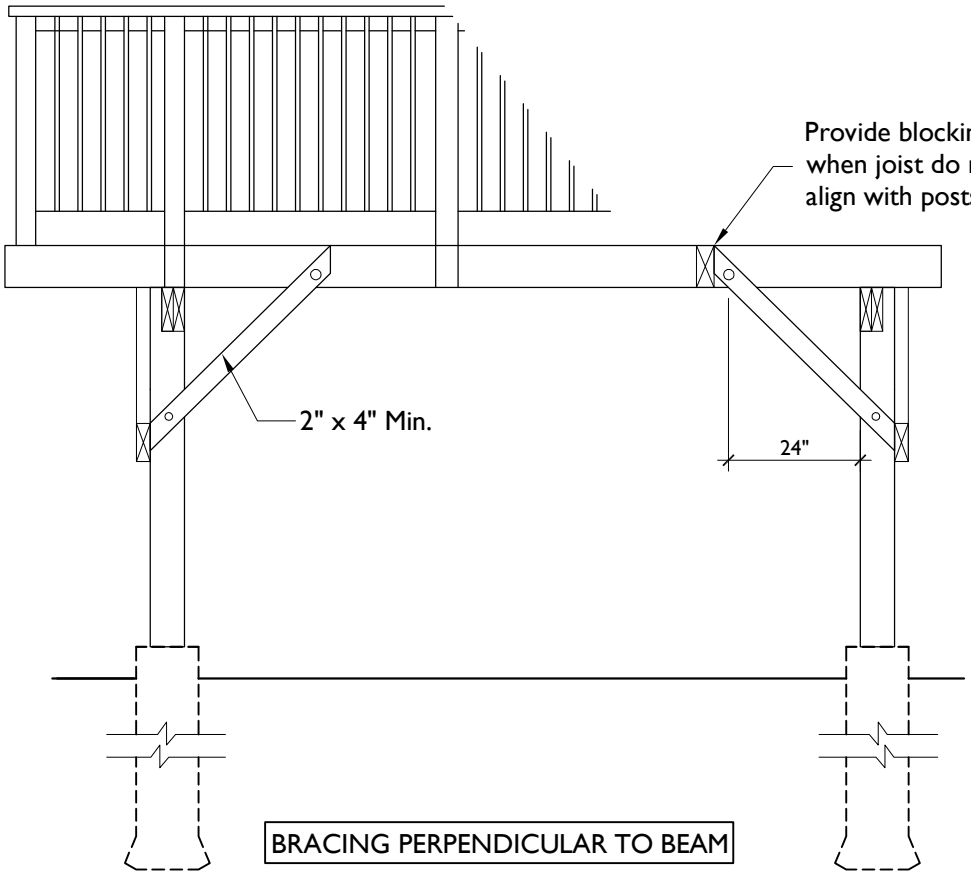
CROSS SECTION DETAIL
DECK NOT ATTACHED TO HOUSE



LATERAL BRACING DETAILS EXAMPLE



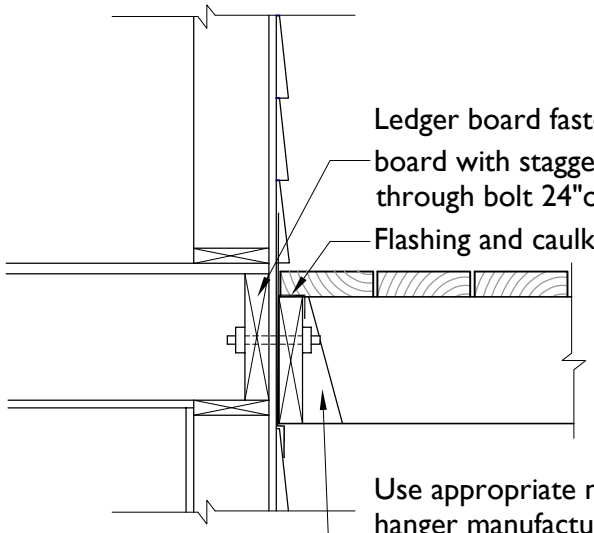
BRACING PARALLEL TO BEAM



BRACING PERPENDICULAR TO BEAM

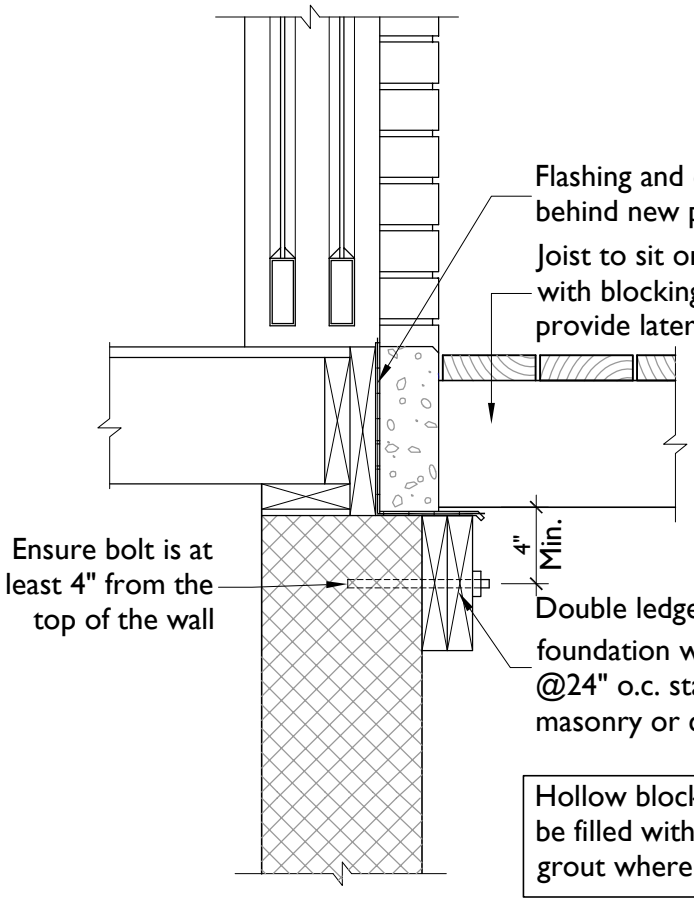
DECKS GREATER THEN 24" ABOVE GRADE SHALL BE PROVIDED WITH LATERAL BRACING TO ENSURE DECK STABILITY AS PER OBC ARTICLE 9.17.2.2.

WALL CONNECTION THROUGH SIDING WALL



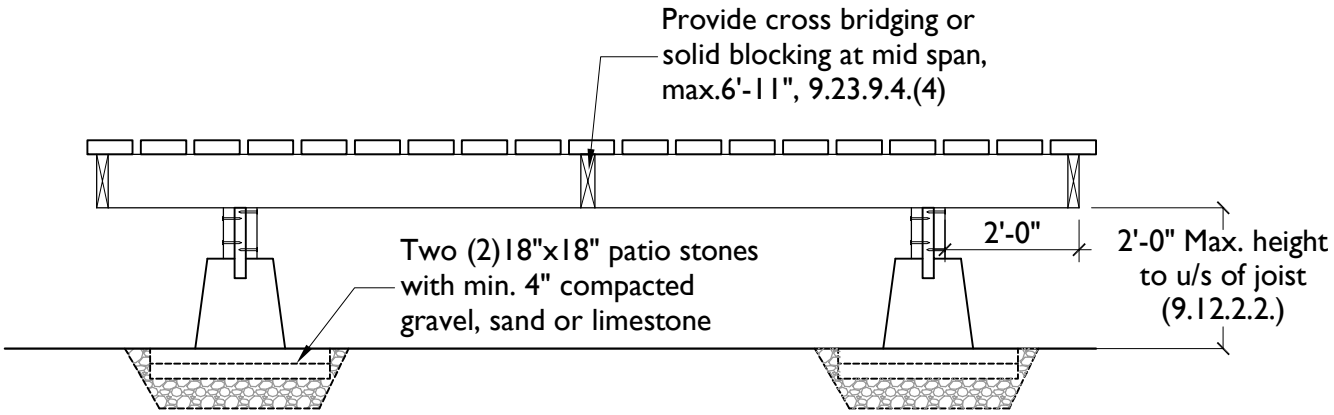
*Attachment to I-Joist rim board not permitted

WALL CONNECTION THROUGH SOLID CONCRETE



Hollow block foundation to be filled with concrete or grout where anchor attached

CROSS SECTION DETAIL
ALTERNATE FOOTING LAYOUT



* Decks must not be attached to any other structure
* Any lumber material within 6" from grade requires to be rated for below grade use.
* Differential movement may occur and needs to be adjusted by the owner as necessary

Template Drawing Instructions

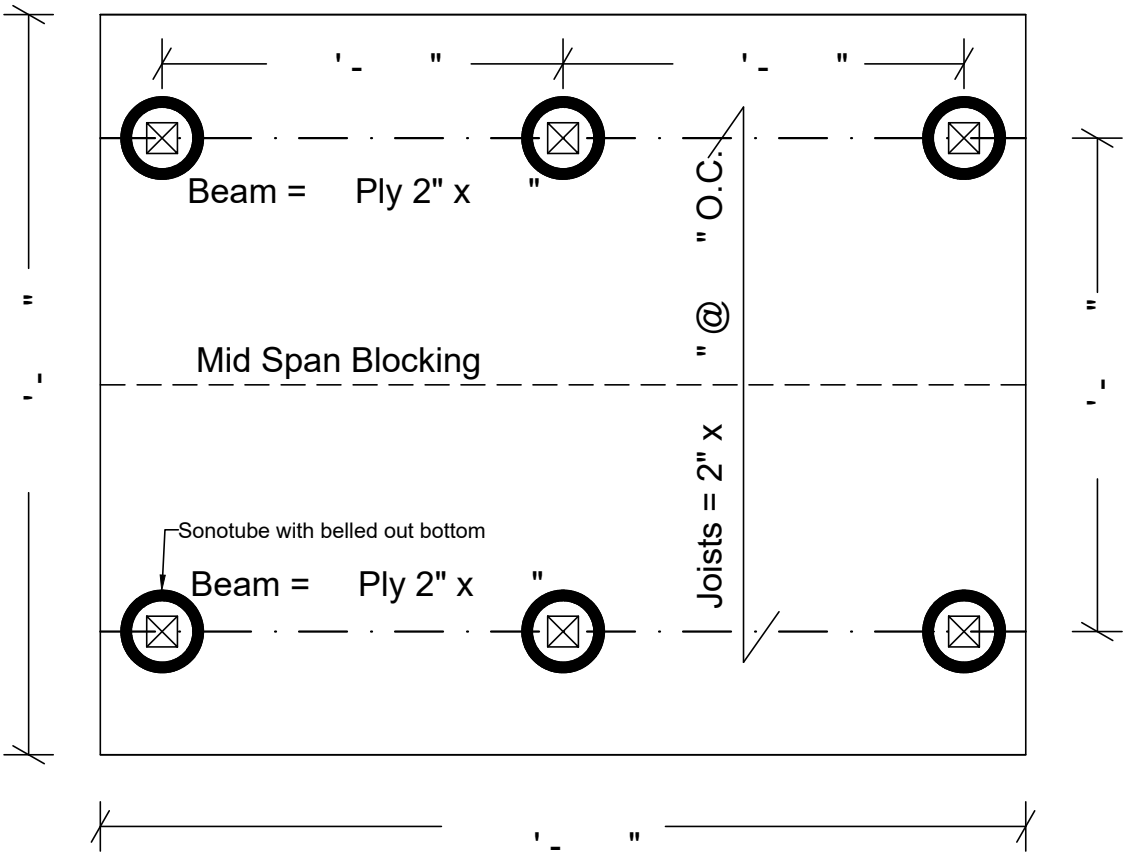
The following instructions outline how to use the templated deck drawings when preparing your deck permit application:

1. Select the template that aligns with your project.
    1. Deck not attached to a house.
    2. Deck attached to a house foundation
2. Review the deck specifications within this document and ensure you understand all requirements before proceeding.
3. Complete the templated drawings by including any details specific to your property, such as deck location, dimensions, material sizes and access points (location of stairs and door opening onto deck).
4. Ensure the drawings and specifications are submitted together as part of your deck permit application package.

If your deck design differs from a standard rectangular deck, or if additional features are required feel free to use the template as a guide and recreate the drawings. If further assistance is required, consult with a qualified professional.

Disclaimer: The template drawings are intended for use with standard rectangular decks and must be used in conjunction with the deck specifications. They are provided as a general guide to assist homeowners in preparing drawings for a permit application. Use of these templates does not guarantee permit approval. It is your responsibility to ensure that your deck design complies with the Ontario Building Code and related regulations. If you are uncertain about any aspect of your project, please seek advice from a qualified design professional.

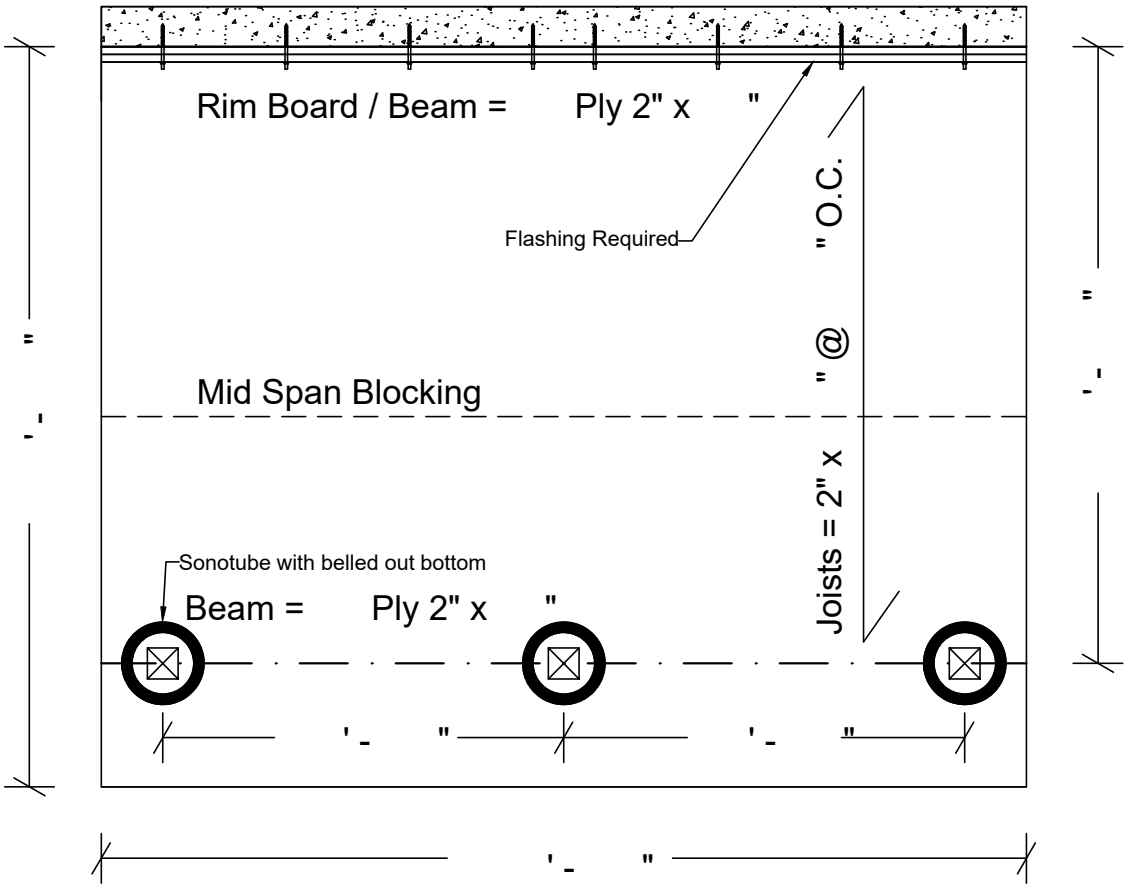
DECK NOT ATTACHED TO HOUSE



Deck Specifications			
Sonotubes (min 10" dia. with 15 MPa concrete)		Decking Type	☐ Pressure Treated ☐ Cedar ☐ Composite
Post Size (min. 6" x 6")		Decking Thickness (min. $\frac{5}{4}$")	
Beam Size		Height of Deck (Grade to Decking)	
Beam Cantilever (max 12")		Guard Type	☐ Cantilever (SB-7) ☐ Pickets (SB-7) ☐ Engineered
Joist Size (min. 2" x 8")		Guard Height	☐ 36" ☐ 42"
Joist Cantilever (max 24")			

Note: Decks less than 23 5/6" above grade are not required to have a guard as per 9.8.8.1.(1)

ATTACHED TO HOUSE FOUNDATION WALL



Deck Specifications			
Sonotubes (min 10" dia. with 15 MPa concrete)		Joist to Rim Board / Beam Connection	☐ Flush ☐ Dropped
Post Size (min. 6" x 6")		Lag Bolt (min $\frac{1}{2}$" dia.)	
Beam Size		Decking Type	☐ Pressure Treated ☐ Cedar ☐ Composite
Beam Cantilever (max 12")		Decking Thickness (min. $\frac{5}{4}$")	
Joist Size (min. 2" x 8")		Height of Deck (Grade to Decking)	
Joist Cantilever (max 24")		Guard Type	☐ Cantilever (SB-7) ☐ Pickets (SB-7) ☐ Engineered
Rim Board / Beam Size (Same depth as joists)		Guard Height	☐ 36" ☐ 42"

Note: Decks less than 23 5/6" above grade are not required to have a guard as per 9.8.8.1.(1)

Notes

Scale 1/4"

Contact Us:

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Notes

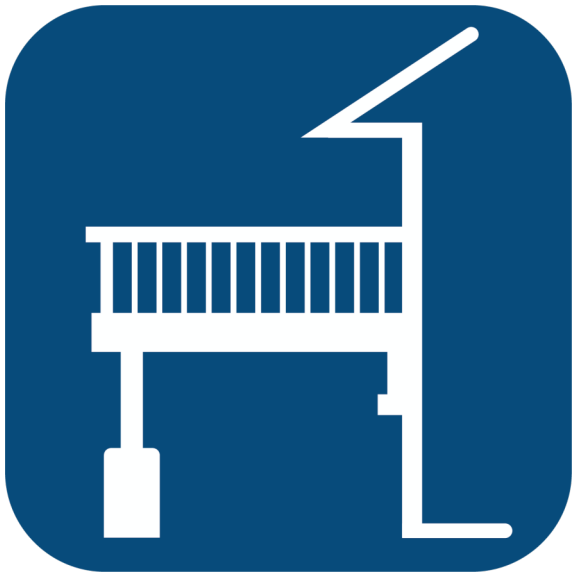
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