



3-SEASON PORCH HANDOUT

Building Inspections Department | 6000 McColl Drive, Savage, MN 55378
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This information outlines general code requirements relative to porch construction. For specific code requirements, please contact a design professional or the Savage Building Department at 952-882-2650.

A separate permit is required for electrical work. Applications for electrical permits are available online. For questions regarding electrical work, please contact the State Electrical Inspector, Justin Doebbling at (612) 643-1838.

REQUIREMENTS

- A signed, completed building permit application form.
- Two copies of a Certificate of Survey or site plan drawn to scale showing property lines, existing buildings and the proposed structure location with distances to property lines.
- Two copies of building plans showing proposed designs and materials. Drawings must be to scale and include the following information.
 - Indicate the proposed porch size and shape.
 - Indicate the size, spacing and direction of the floor joists.
 - Indicate the size and direction of the decking/flooring.
 - Indicate the size, location and spacing of posts.
 - Indicate the size and quantity of the beams and headers.
 - Indicate the type of lumber to be used.

Elevation drawings of the proposed construction must include the following:

- All door and window locations.
- Height of structure from grade.
- Diameter and depth of footings.
- Guardrail height and spacing.
- Ceiling height, header sizes and location.
- Rafter or truss specifications, spacing and direction.
- Indicate types of sheathing, siding, house wrap and roof covering.
- Indicate the pitch of the roof.
- Indicate the type of door between the existing house and the proposed porch. Include header size if additional loads will be added to the header.

GENERAL BUILDING REQUIREMENTS BASED ON THE 2020 MINNESOTA RESIDENTIAL CODE BASED ON 2018 INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE AND SAVAGE CITY ORDINANCES.

- All footings shall be a minimum of 42" below grade. Footing sizes to be based on 2000 pounds per square foot soil boring capacity. Footings must be poured using forms or cardboard tubes.
- Redwood, cedar, or approved treated material shall be used for those portions of wood members which form the structural supports of buildings, balconies, porches or similar permanent building appurtenances when such members are exposed to weather without adequate protection from a roof, eave, overhang, or other covering to prevent moisture or water accumulation on the surface or at joints between members. Depending on local experience such members may include: horizontal members such as girders, joists and decking; or vertical members such as posts, poles, and columns. (Stairways are included).
- Landings, ramps, balconies and porches which are more than 30" above the grade or floor below shall be protected by a guard not less than 36" in height. Open guards shall have intermediate rails or an ornamental pattern such that a sphere 4" in diameter may not pass through.

- When a stairway is provided, the minimum width shall not be less than 3'. Stairways shall be constructed having a 7 3/4-inch maximum riser, and a 10-inch minimum tread. Risers, treads and nosings may not deviate more than 3/8" for the entire stair length. Open risers for stairs with a total rise of more than 30" are not permitted to allow the passage of a 4" diameter sphere. A nosing not less than 3/4" or greater than 1 1/4" shall be provided on stairways with solid risers, unless the tread depth is a minimum of 11".
- Stairways having 4 or more risers shall have an approved, continuous handrail. The top of the handrail shall be placed not less than 34" or more than 38" above the nose of the treads and it shall be graspable.
- Stairways with treads more than 30" above the grade or floor below require a guard not less than 34" from the nose of the treads. Open guards shall have intermediate rails or an ornamental pattern such that a sphere 4 3/8" in diameter may not pass through. The triangular openings formed by the riser, tread and bottom rail of guards shall be such that a sphere 6" in diameter may not pass through.
- Handrails shall have a space of not less than 1 1/2" between the handrail and the wall or guard. Handrails with a circular cross-section shall be not less than 1 1/4" or more than 2" in diameter. If the handrail is not circular, it shall have a perimeter dimension of at least 4" and not greater than 6 1/4", with a maximum cross section dimension of 2 1/4". Handrails with a perimeter greater than 6 1/4" shall provide a graspable recess area on both sides of the profile. The finger recess shall begin within a distance of 3/4" measured vertically from the tallest portion of the profile and achieve a depth of at least 5/16" within 7/8" below the widest portion of the profile. This required depth shall continue for at least 3/8" to a level that is not less than 1 3/4" below the tallest portion of the profile. The minimum width of the handrail above the recess shall be 1 1/4" to a maximum of 2 3/4". Edges shall be smooth.
- Safety glazing is required within a 2' radius of each door edge when the door is in a closed position.
- Beam splices shall occur directly over a post. Beams supporting roof weight must bear on the house wall plate and have full width with solid bearing down to foundation.
- Miscellaneous metal devices, nails, screws and bolts must be of a galvanized or non-corrosive material and must be compatible with AC2 treated lumber.
- Secure the ledger board to the house with two 3/8-inch lag screws every 16" top and bottom and flash the ledger properly. If open web floor trusses were used, lag bolts shall be secured to ends of trusses. **When the house has an overhang/cantilever at the location where you plan to attach the porch**, a special design is required to provide adequate bearing support. (For specific requirements, contact a design professional or the Inspections Department).
- Proper soffit and roof ventilation is required for enclosed attic spaces and shall be 1/300th of the area of the attic space. Fifty percent of the required ventilation shall be provided by eave or cornice vents and fifty percent shall be located in the upper third of the attic space.

REQUIRED INSPECTIONS

Before digging call **Gopher State One Call** at 651-454-0002 to locate utilities 48 hours in advance.

Contact the Building Inspections Department at 952-882-2650 at least 24 hours in advance to schedule inspections.

- **Footings**
After the holes are dug, loose dirt and water removed but **prior to pouring concrete**.
- **Electrical, plumbing, and mechanical**
Complete rough-ins before framing.
- **Framing**
When framing is done the roof complete and windows installed.
- **Insulation**
After framing and electrical inspections have been approved.
- **Final**
Have an electrical final inspection completed before the final building inspection.