



May is Deck Safety Awareness Month in Virginia

The Virginia Building and Code Officials Association and your local building department reminds you that it is important to regularly inspect your decks and balconies. Each year hundreds of people are injured as a result of deck failures that may have been avoided by performing basic preventive maintenance. Failures also occur because of faulty construction techniques. Whenever you build or repair a deck, it is important to obtain the required permits and inspections from your local building department to help ensure your family and guests enjoy your deck without worry of failure or collapse. Use the checklist below to help you inspect your deck for possible unsafe conditions.



Tips for deck safety

1. Check support posts and beams for rot, splitting or abnormal movement.
2. Closely check the attachment points between the deck and the house.
3. Check all fasteners, bolts brackets, etc., for rust and corrosion.
4. Check all guards and rails to be sure they are sturdy and well secured
5. Use grills, heaters and outdoor fire pits with care and be sure to observe all rules regarding their use.