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|  | BUILDING DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES RESIDENTIAL INSPECTIONS GENERAL | Effective Date: October 30, 2019 |
| | | Supersedes Policy Dated: November 15, 2011 |
| | 4.1.1 Deck Inspection Access | Issued by: Eric M. Mays, P.E.  Building Official |

For decks without exterior stairway access that are greater than forty-two (42) inches above the finished grade, the inspector must be given access to the deck through the house. Ladders are not an acceptable alternative.

This is necessary to ensure that the following items can be properly inspected:

- ◆ Height of the guardrail and its structural integrity
- ◆ Spacing of the intermediate rails
- ◆ Verify that the proper fasteners have been used
- ◆ Verify all members have been fastened correctly
- ◆ Verify any required diagonal bracing has been installed to prevent swaying or racking of the deck

Contractors need to ensure that homeowners are aware of this policy. The contractor or homeowner can contact the Building Construction Inspections Branch between 7:30 AM and 8:00 AM at 703-792-7006 to talk with inspector about the projected inspection time. Additionally, the inspector's schedule and inspection route can be viewed at <https://egeportal.pwcgov.org/CAPSite/Public/Main>.

Attachments/Hyperlinks:

- [Typical Residential Deck Design](http://www.pwcgov.org/government/dept/development/bd/Documents/005540.pdf)
www.pwcgov.org/government/dept/development/bd/Documents/005540.pdf