

What is the difference between a deck and a patio?

A deck is higher than 0.6m above design grade. A patio is less than 0.6m from design grade.

Is my wood deck calculated as part of my site coverage?

Only if it is hard surfaced or covered. Open decks that have planking with spaces between, that drain to a permeable surface, are not included in site coverage.

Do I need a permit to build a deck?

If the deck is higher than 0.6m from design grade to the floor of the deck or if the deck's area is greater than 15m², Development and Building Permits are needed. Keep in mind that hard surfaces or covered decks and patios are included as part of the site coverage calculation for your property.

Are there guardrail requirements when building a deck?

Contact an Accredited Safety Codes Officer to determine if guardrails are necessary. A list of companies is available at the Planning and Development Department and on the Town's website www.whitecourt.ca.

Town of Whitecourt Planning and Development Department

5004 52 Avenue
Box 509
Whitecourt, Alberta T7S 1N6
Phone: 780.778.2273
Fax: 780.778.2062
Email: planning@whitecourt.ca

Hours of Operation
Monday to Friday
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Closed between
12 noon and 12:30 p.m.

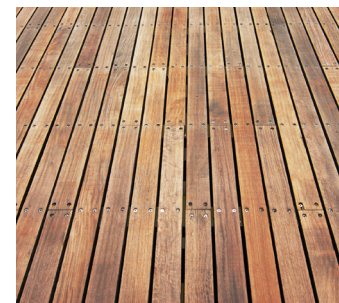
www.whitecourt.ca

Alberta 1 Call

Call before you dig
1.800.242.3447

Alberta 1 Call will assist you in locating electric, oil, gas and communication lines.

BUILDING A DECK OR PATIO



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
KEEPING YOU INFORMED.

FREQUENTLY ASKED
QUESTIONS

FOR MORE
INFORMATION



Development and construction in Whitecourt is regulated by the Land Use Bylaw.

You require a Development and Building Permit if your proposed patio or deck is higher than 0.6m above design grade or greater than 15m².

All covered decks require permits.

Keep in mind, patios and hard surfaced or covered decks are both included when calculating site coverage.

Site Coverage:

The combination of hard surfacing, accessory buildings, and hard surfaced or covered decks is used to determine site coverage. Site coverage is calculated by adding all buildings, hard surfacing, and dividing that into total lot area. Maximum site coverage for most residential lots is 40%. The Development Officer can help you determine your property's site coverage.

Front Yard Decks:

Contact the Planning and Development Department to see if you can have an attached front deck.

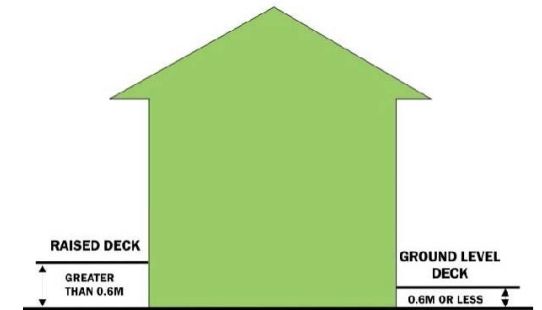
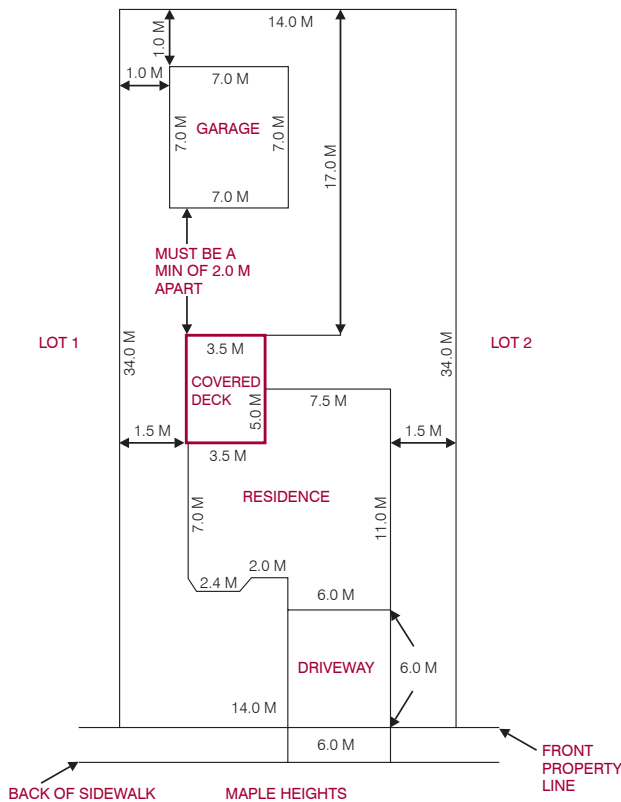
Rear and Side Yards for Decks:

Attached decks must be a minimum of 1.5m from any side property line, and 7.6m from any rear property line. At least 2.0m must be left between an attached deck and any garage or shed.

Each lot is unique, and the Development Officer would be happy to let you know what requirements apply to your property.

A utility right of way is a registered easement on private land that allows the Town and Utility Companies the right to access the buried utilities or services that connect to your property. Permanent structures can not be built within a utility right of way.

For detailed information, contact the Planning and Development Department at 780.778.2273.



UTILITY RIGHT OF WAY

For more information on Development and Building Permits, check the brochure entitled "Applying for Permits", available at the Town Office or on the Town's website www.whitecourt.ca.

SITE REGULATIONS

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APPLYING FOR A PERMIT