

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between a deck and a patio?

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

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

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 0.6 metres from design grade to the floor of the deck or if the deck's area is greater than 15 square metres 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 Officers to determine if guardrails are necessary. A list of companies is available at the Planning and Development Department and on the Town's website.

When in doubt, the Planning and Development Department is here to help!

For More Information

Town of Whitecourt Planning and Development Department

5004 52nd Avenue
P.O. Box 509
Whitecourt, AB T7S 1N6
Phone: 780-778-2273
Fax: 780-778-2062

Hours of Operation:
Monday to Friday
8:30AM to 4:30PM
(Closed between 12:00 noon
and 12:30PM)

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.



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Building a Deck or Patio

Keeping you informed.



