

Check Your Deck:

THINK
WOOD[®]
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4

Step Guide to Deck Safety



Make sure it's up to code.

First and foremost, be sure your deck is built according to code.

We recommend reading the [DCA 6 prescriptive deck building code](#).

Check wood and deck connections.

Go underneath the deck and examine how it's put together, starting with the ledger board, which fastens the deck to the house. Then, make sure posts, beams, joists, deck boards, railings, fasteners and connectors are all in good shape and that nothing is unstable.

Don't forget about the flashing.

Be sure to also inspect the flashing—the L-shaped piece of metal on top of the ledger board that diverts water and is on top. If it's degraded, has holes, or is missing, replace it or have a new one installed.

When in doubt, call in the professionals.

Contractors and licensed professionals can help inspect the deck, provide suggestions and let you know how much a repair should cost.

For additional safety tips:

Check out the [Simpson Strong-Tie Deck Connection and Fastening Guide](#), which provides details on everything from ledger connections to joist hangers, post to footing connections, and pertinent building code sections