

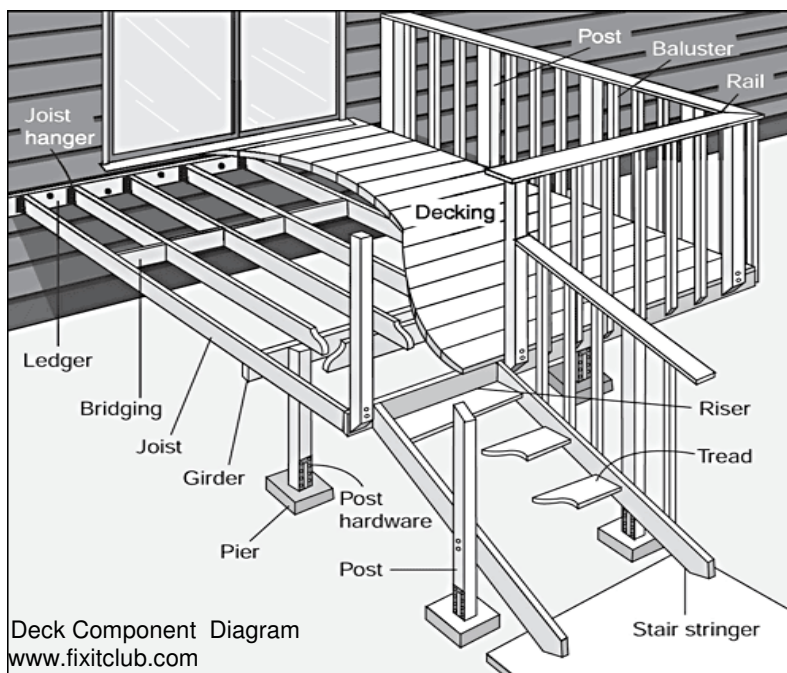
CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO DECK SAFETY

VILLAGE OF BALD HEAD ISLAND



KNOW YOUR DECK COMPONENTS

First and foremost, every homeowner should familiarize themselves with the terminology used when referring to their deck components. Knowing the name of the component as well as what it looks like will go a long way when determining the safety of your deck. Common components are pier, post, ledger, joist, girder, bridging, decking, stair stringer, tread, riser, baluster and rail. Other hardware components include joist hanger, lag bolts/screws, washers, nuts, and nails. The picture to the right illustrates these common components mentioned.



KNOW WHAT TO CHECK

Use this simple six step checklist to inspect your deck. These items will give you a clear indication as to the safety of your decking system. Address any issues you find.



Split or decaying wood:
Check several areas, pay attention to damp areas



Flashing: Check to make sure it is sound and firmly in place



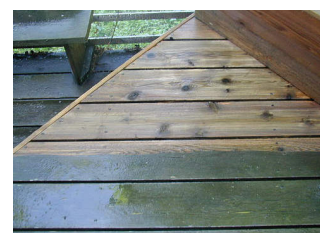
Loose or corroded fasteners:
Tighten fasteners, replace rusted/corroded fasteners



Railings/Handrails: Make sure secure and solid



Deck band board/ledger
should be bolted



Cleaning/Maintenance:
Remove debris and mildew, check deck coating

VILLAGE OF BALD HEAD ISLAND

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The Village's Development Services Administrator (building inspector) inspects any new deck construction and significant repairs or renovations at the time the work is completed, but does not engage in routine, periodic inspections. This responsibility ultimately falls on the property owner, although the Village's building inspector will inspect any property for which a specific complaint is received.

If you are interested in a professional option regarding your deck, contact a local licensed contractor or home inspector who provides that service. The Village will be happy to provide you with a list of qualified professionals who work on the island. While many contractors work through the permitting process with the Village, it is important if you have questions about the process that you ask. Understanding the process will help with communication between contractor and client. As always, if the Village can answer any questions or concerns feel free to contact us, and we will help in the best way we can.

Coastal Construction : What Works Best?

Materials and construction methods should be resistant to flood and wind damage, corrosion, moisture, and decay. All coastal buildings require maintenance and repair more so than inland construction. This is especially true for those components that are open/exposed to the elements. Preservative treated wood used in a coastal environment often

contains chemical preservatives. The connectors and fasteners used in conjunction with these pressure treated wood products should be properly selected and verified to be compatible with the treated wood. The moist salt air speeds up corrosion of these components as well. Fasteners should be hot-dip zinc-coated galvanized steel, stainless steel, silicon bronze,

or copper. Ensure that all metal fasteners are the same type of metal. Avoid joining dissimilar metals especially those with high galvanic potential as they are more prone to corrosion. Always evaluate the nature of a material before determining if it is suitable for your application. For more information visit www.fema.gov/media-library-data/

Silicon Bronze Wood Screw



Stainless Steel Joist Hanger



Stainless Steel Nails

