



## ***Deck Safety Tips***

Most experts agree that the average life expectancy of a wood deck is 10-15 years. Since 2003, deck collapses have caused thousands of reported injuries and several deaths. Please use the following tips to help ensure your deck remains safe for family and friends.

5 Warning Signs that your deck might be unsafe:

1. Missing Connections – Decks should be built with a series of wood members, nails screws and metal connectors. If you only see nails, it could be unsafe.
2. Loose Connections – Depending how the deck is constructed, vital connections may have degraded over time. Issues such as wobbly railings, loose stairs and ledgers that appear to be pulling away from the home are all causes for concern.
3. Corrosion of Connectors and Fasteners – Metal connectors, screws and nails corrode over time. Look for red rust and other signs of corrosion that might weaken the structure.
4. Rot – Wood can rot and degrade over time with exposure to elements. Wood members that have rotted may no longer be able to perform the function for which they were installed, making the deck unstable.
5. Cracks – AS wood ages, cracks commonly develop. Large cracks or excessive cracking overall can weaken the deck.

Inspecting and making repairs regularly can help ensure that your deck is safe and viable for many years. If it becomes necessary to make major repairs or replace the deck, please contact your local building codes department for permit and code requirements.

**For emergency purposes, please:**

**Make sure your address is displayed and visible from the street.**

**Make sure everyone knows how to dial 9-1-1 and their address.**

*Information obtained from the International Code Council and Simpson Strong-Tie Company, Inc.*