



# International Wildland-Urban Interface Code (WUI)

## DECKS

**Deck construction** under the 2021 WUI code (501.6) will need to be constructed of all non-combustible materials or heavy timber construction. Below are examples of the most likely code compliant options, and is not a complete list.

These materials are:

1. Exterior fire-retardant-treated wood.
2. Noncombustible material such as steel and composites.
3. Heavy timber construction consisting of the following:
  - Posts shall be a minimum of 6" x 6" nominal dimension.
  - Beams shall be a minimum of 6" x 8" nominal dimension.
  - Joists shall be a minimum of 4" x 8" nominal dimension spaced at no greater than 24 inches on center.

**Decks with less than 48 inches of clearance** from finished grade to underside of the deck joists shall be enclosed with screen material with openings no greater than 1/4-inch maximum to prevent accumulation of combustibles and to prevent embers from coming in underneath.

The **walking surface material** of decks, porches, balconies, and stairs shall be constructed with one of the following materials:

1. Exterior fire-retardant-treated wood.
2. Noncombustible material such as steel and composites.
3. Where the deck, porch, balcony, or stairs are constructed of heavy timber, natural wood decking products shall be:
  - 2-inch nominal dimension lumber; or
  - 5/4-inch nominal hardwood (i.e., teak, mahogany, or other approved hardwood, not cedar).
4. Materials that have been tested by the manufacturer to meet the requirements of no ignition or burn and/or flame spread will need to provide documentation of that testing.

*References:*

*International Code Council ICC - [International Code Council - ICC \(iccsafe.org\)](https://www.iccsafe.org)*

*State Building Code Council , see for effective date - [About SBCC](https://www.sbccc.org) | [SBCC \(wa.gov\)](https://www.sbccc.org)*

