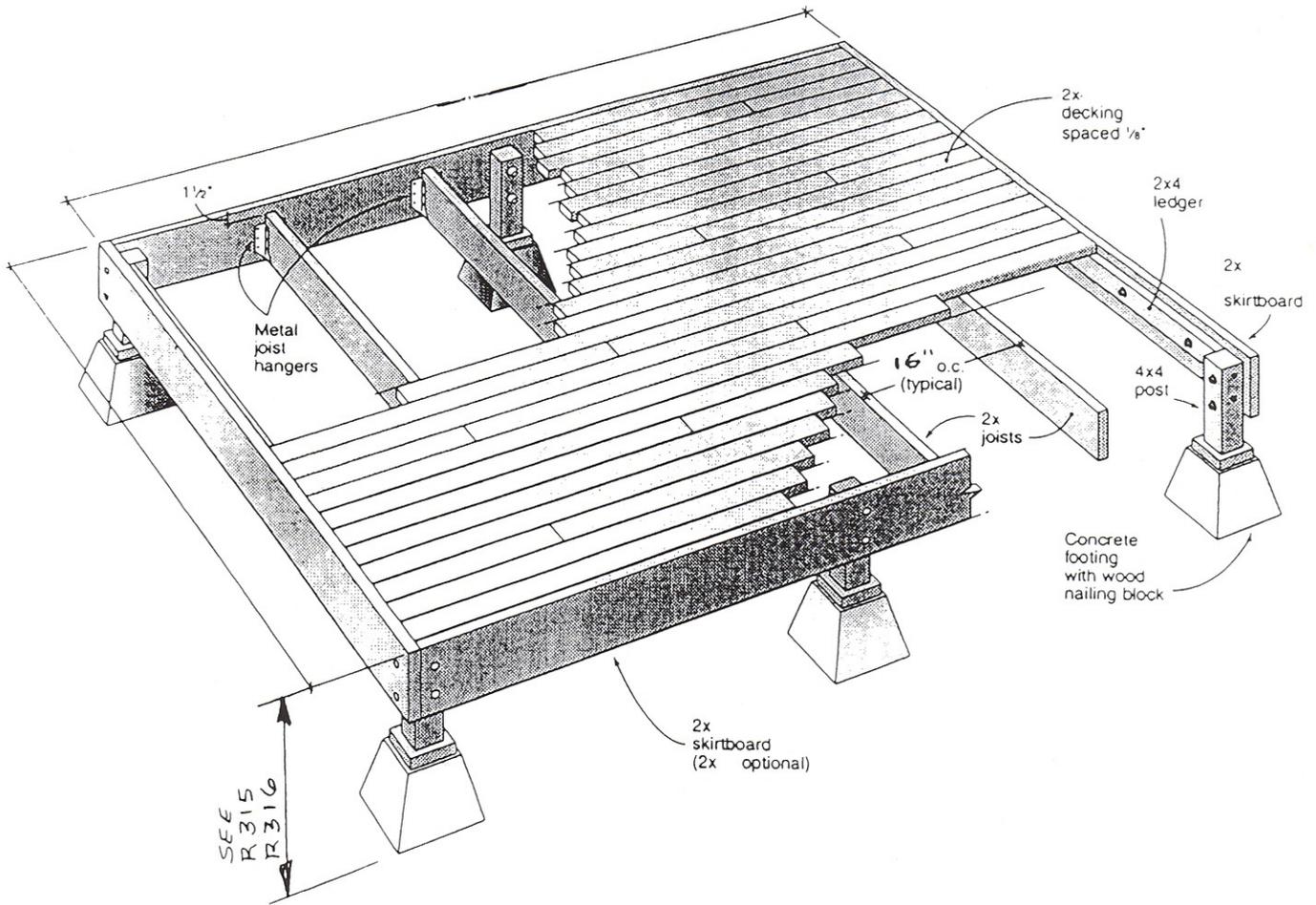


# Freestanding Deck

## EXAMPLE



SECTION R315  
HANDRAILS

**R315.1 Handrails.** Handrails shall be provided on at least one side of each stairway with two or more risers. Handrail height, measured above stair tread nosings, shall be not less than 34 inches (864 mm) and not more than 38 inches (965 mm). All required handrails shall be continuous the full length of the stairs from a point directly above the top riser of a flight to a point directly above the lowest riser of the flight. Ends shall be returned or shall terminate in newel posts or safety terminals. Handrails adjacent to a wall shall have a space of not less than 1 1/2 inches (38 mm) between the wall and the handrail.

SECTION R316  
GUARDS

**R316.1 Guards required.** Porches, balconies or raised floor surfaces located more than 30 inches (762 mm) above the floor or grade below shall have guards not less than 36 inches (914 mm) in height. Open sides of stairs with a total rise of more than 30 inches (762 mm) above the floor or grade below shall have guards not less than 34 inches (864 mm) in height measured vertically from the nosing of the treads.

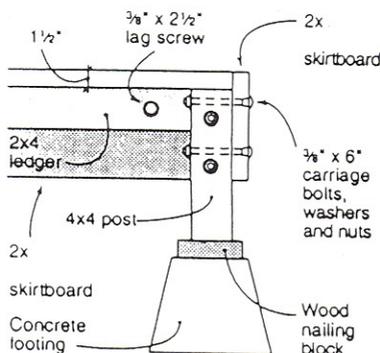
**R316.2 Guard opening limitations.** Required guards on open sides of stairways, raised floor areas, balconies and porches shall have intermediate rails or ornamental closures that do not allow passage of a sphere 4 inches (102 mm) or more in diameter.

**Exception:** The triangular openings formed by the riser, tread and bottom rail of a guard at the open side of a stairway are permitted to be of such a size that a sphere 6 inches (152 mm) cannot pass through.

**Footings and posts** Simple precast concrete footings with wood nailing blocks are used in this design. For this freestanding deck, you will need six. Check local building codes to be sure these footings are appropriate for your climate. Once your footings are set, place the 4x4 posts in position.

Post lengths will vary according to the contour of the ground. Establish the height at one corner and use this to measure the others.

Accurate measurement and trimming of the posts can be achieved using a string level or a carpenter's level. Post tops should be 1 1/2 inches below the top of the skirtboards. This provides room for the deck boards. Toenail posts to the footings



**CAN NOT BE ATTACHED TO  
RESIDENCE OR STRUCTURE**