



**Building and Safety
Permit Service Center**

Permit Requirements

EXTERIOR ELEVATED ELEMENT (E3) REPAIRS

A building permit is required to repair or replace most parts of a typical wood deck, balcony or exterior stairway. Visit www.cityofberkeley.info/E3/ to get the inspection certification form or for more information about the E3 program. See the diagram on page 2 for deck component terminology.

Permits are required for:	The following repairs do not typically require a permit, but must be made according to code:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cutting, notching or replacement of any structural framing elements or structural supports including joists, beams, posts, piers and stringers • Replacement of exterior building finishes • Replacement, installation or repair of waterproofing • Installation of ventilation openings • Replacement of concrete topping slabs • Similar activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair of stair treads, risers, or decking • Repair of guardrail components • Repairs of dry rot or rust made by treating or scraping and painting without cutting a framing member. • Replacement of a deck coating • Some forms of maintenance-based remediation such as the application of preservatives or sealants.

If you are unsure if you need a permit, contact a plans examiner at (510) 981-7440 and select option 3. For general questions about E3 requirements, contact (510) 981-5444.

Once work has been completed, a licensed general contractor, architect or engineer needs to verify that the exterior elevated elements are now in a general safe condition, adequate working order, and free from deterioration, decay, corrosion or similar damage, and submit another Inspection Certification form to this office.

Typical Deck, Stair, and Guard Rail Components:

E3 requirements apply to wood and metal decks, landings, and stairway systems that exceed 6 feet in height.

A building permit is required to replace most parts of a typical wood deck, balcony or exterior stair. Repair of stair treads, risers, decking, or limited replacement of balusters can be performed without a permit; however, repairs must be made according to code.

