



American  
Wood  
Council

# AWCNews

A News Release from the American Wood Council

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## AWC's WOOD DECK GUIDE UPDATED TO 2009 IRC®

The American Wood Council (AWC) has updated one of its most popular publications, the *Prescriptive Residential Wood Deck Construction Guide – DCA 6*, to reflect changes to wood deck construction standards in the *2009 International Residential Code (IRC)*. Like earlier versions of AWC's document, the updated wood deck guide continues to be offered to building professionals at no charge from AWC's website, [www.awc.org](http://www.awc.org).

Where applicable, provisions and details contained in *DCA 6* are now based on the *2009 IRC*. Recommended prescriptive construction methods meet or exceed minimum requirements of the residential code. Provisions that are not found in the *IRC* are provided as good industry practice.

"AWC's technical experts are positioned to work with designers, home builders, researchers, and manufacturers to ensure wood products are used in a safe manner" said Robert Glowinski, AF&PA Vice President of Forestry and Wood Products. "Since this document is so important to life safety, we continue to offer it free for the public."

Two of the more notable changes to *DCA 6* include development of a *Commentary* for the document and incorporation of lateral hold down tension devices for connecting the deck to the house. The latter is based on comparable provisions added to the *2009 IRC*.

According to Dr. Frank Woeste, P.E., a noted author and expert on deck safety, "Except for hurricanes and tornadoes, more injuries may be connected to deck failures than all other wood building components and loading cases combined!" *DCA 6* was specifically developed to address this problem.

Electronic versions of the *DCA 6 Wood Deck Guide* are available for free download from the AWC website at <http://www.awc.org>.

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**The American Wood Council (AWC)** is affiliated with the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA). AWC represents companies that manufacture lumber, panels, engineered wood products, and other structural wood products used in construction. These essential products come from renewable and recyclable resources that sustain the environment. The forest products industry employs 1 million workers and generates 6 percent of the total U.S. manufacturing GDP. Visit AWC online at [www.awc.org](http://www.awc.org).