



# Building newsflash number – 457

## Deck, balcony and window safety guideline

### Purpose

To advise a new guideline for decks, balconies and window safety has been released.

### Background

In recent years across Australia there have been a number of deck collapses and falls from buildings. Coronial reports regularly recommended that buildings be checked for safety.

This is particularly important for occupiers of homes with timber decks and balconies (especially those built before the 1940s). The guideline decks, balconies and window safety can be used to help occupiers check that their buildings are safe for the festive season.

### Issues

To help promote the safety message, Growth Management Queensland has developed the *Deck, balcony and window safety guideline*. The guideline has been prepared to assist building owners and occupiers carry out safety inspections on balustrades, decks and balconies. It also includes useful advice about safety issues associated with elevated floors and opening windows. The aim of the guideline is to help minimise the risk of further collapses, falls and injuries by making owners and tenants aware of the risks associated with poorly maintained decks and balconies.

Owners and occupiers, especially those preparing for celebrations during the festive season, are encouraged to use the guideline to inspect their decks and balconies to identify any areas requiring maintenance. It is important to take action to address maintenance risks early.

A copy of the new guideline is attached. It is also available free of charge on the Department's website at [www.dip.qld.gov.au/decks-balconies](http://www.dip.qld.gov.au/decks-balconies).

### Contact for further information

Department of Infrastructure and Planning  
Growth Management Queensland  
Building Codes Queensland  
tel +61 7 3239 6369  
[buildingcodes@dip.qld.gov.au](mailto:buildingcodes@dip.qld.gov.au)

If you have not received this Building and Plumbing Newsflash directly from 'Enquiries (BCQ)', you can subscribe via: [buildingcodes@dip.qld.gov.au](mailto:buildingcodes@dip.qld.gov.au)

**DISCLAIMER:** The information contained in this Newsflash is provided by the State of Queensland in good faith. The material is general in nature and before relying on the material in any important matter, users should carefully evaluate its accuracy, currency, completeness and relevance for their purpose. It is not intended as a substitute for consulting the relevant legislation or for obtaining appropriate professional advice relevant to your particular circumstances. The State of Queensland cannot accept responsibility or liability for any loss, damage, cost or expense you might incur as a result of the use of or reliance on information contained in this Newsflash. It is not intended to be, and should not be relied upon as the ultimate and/or complete source of information.

Building newsflash number 457—Deck, balcony and window safety guideline  
Issued 6 December 2010