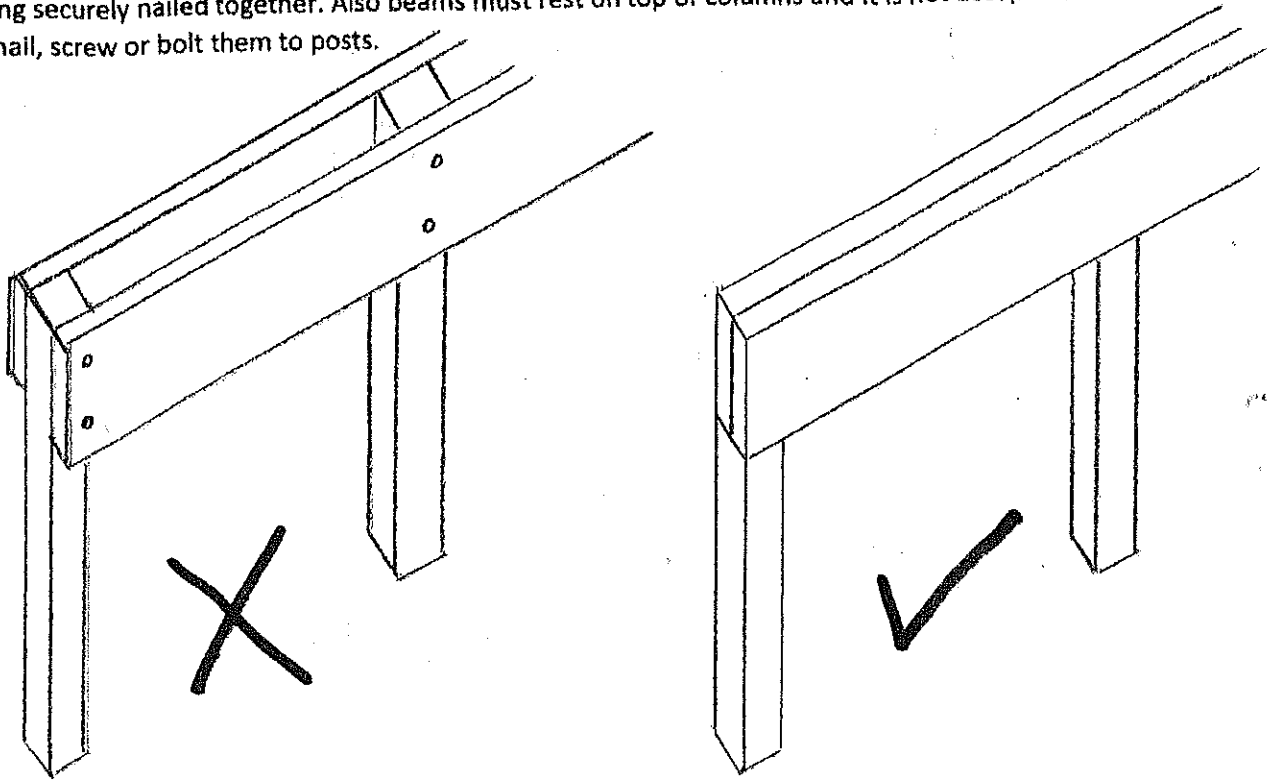
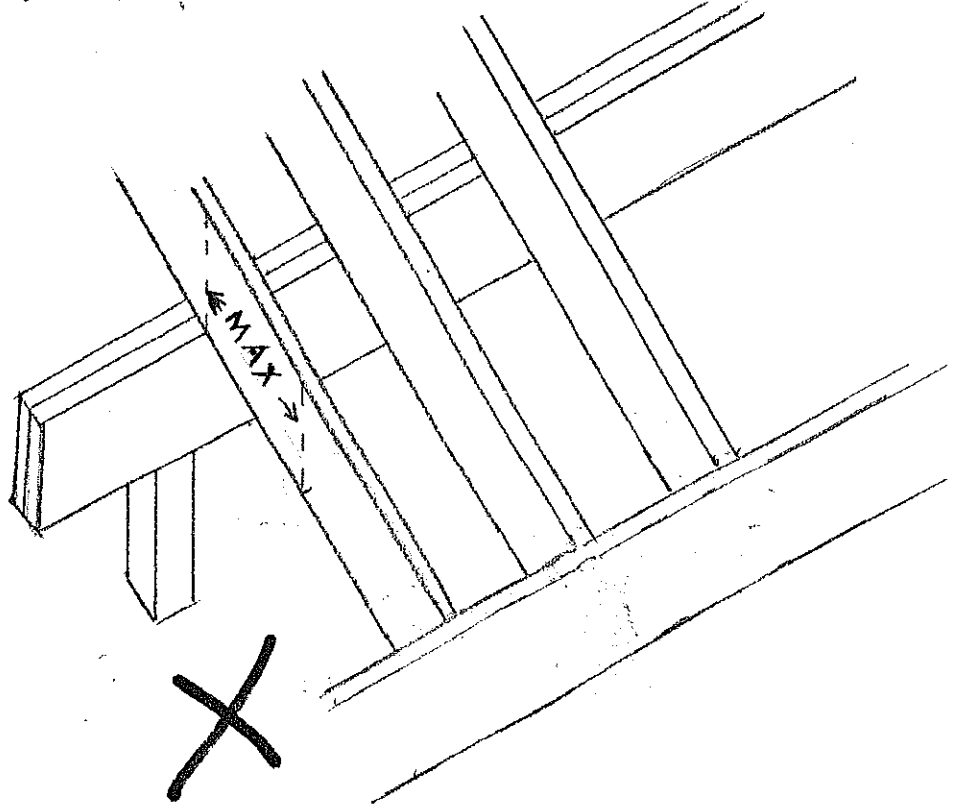


## COMMON DECK CONSTRUCTION MISTAKES

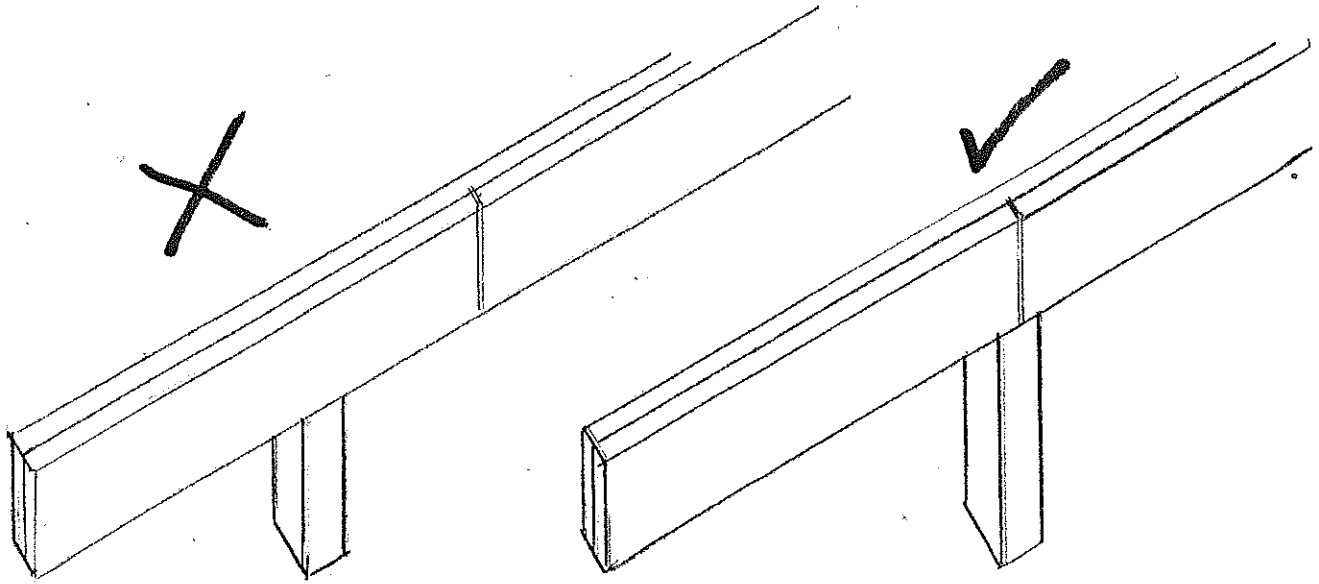
1. Sandwiching posts between beam members. Built up beams derive much of their strength by being securely nailed together. Also beams must rest on top of columns and it is not acceptable to nail, screw or bolt them to posts.



2. Cantilevering joists too far over joists. A useful general rule is that the cantilever distance cannot exceed 3 times the depth of the joist. So, a 2X6 joist should not extend more than 18" past the beam.



3. **Incorrect splices in two ply beams.** Splices in two ply beams must occur directly over support columns.



4. **Substituting built-in benches for deck railings.** Non-climbable deck railings are required on decks more than 24" above ground surface. These railings must be 36" high on decks that are 24" to 72" above ground and 42" high on decks that are over 72" above ground. If benches are installed the seat level of the bench is considered to be the level of the deck. Bench seating must have a non-climbable barrier that extends 36" or 42" above the seat. Typical bench seating has climbable horizontal back rest boards which make a deck more dangerous than one with no railings at all.

