

Deck Foundations

9.12.2.1. Excavation to Undisturbed Soil

1) Excavations for foundations **shall extend to undisturbed soil.**

9.12.2.2. Minimum Depth of Foundations

1) Except as provided in Sentences (4) and (5), **the minimum depth of foundations** below finished ground level **shall conform to Table 9.12.2.2.**

Table 9.12.2.2. Minimum Depths of Foundations Forming Part of Sentence 9.12.2.2.(1)				
Type of Soil	Minimum Depth of Foundation Containing Heated Basement or Crawl Space ⁽¹⁾		Minimum Depth of Foundation Containing No Heated Space ⁽²⁾	
	Good Soil Drainage	Poor Soil Drainage	Good Soil Drainage	Poor Soil Drainage
<i>Rock</i>	No limit	No limit	No limit	No limit
Coarse grained soils	No limit	No limit	No limit	Below the depth of frost penetration
Silt	No limit	No limit	Below the depth of frost penetration ⁽³⁾	Below the depth of frost penetration
Clay or soils not clearly defined ⁽⁴⁾	1.2 m ⁽²⁾	1.2 m	1.2 m but not less than the depth of frost penetration ⁽³⁾	1.2 m but not less than the depth of frost penetration

Notes to Table 9.12.2.2.:

(1) Foundation not insulated to reduce heat loss through the footings.
 (2) Including foundations insulated to reduce heat loss through the footings.
 (3) Good soil drainage to not less than the depth of frost penetration.
 (4) See Appendix A.

9.12.2.2.

7) The foundation depths required by Sentence (1) **do not apply to foundations for decks** and other accessible exterior platforms

- a) of not more than 1 storey,
- b) not more than 55 m² in area,
- c) where the distance from finished ground to the underside of the joists **is not more than 600 mm,**
- d) not supporting a roof

The NBC requires that all decks **more than 600 mm** measured to the underside of the floor joists must have a foundation that complies to the minimum foundation as indicated in the Table 9.12.2.2. The foundation within that table would be under the heading – “Minimum Depth of Foundation Containing No Heated Space” and specifically “1.2 m but not less than the depth of frost penetration.”