

SimpleSide Construction Traces Salt-Spray Corrosion Risks Across Hidden Deck Connections

October 29, 2026

KILL DEVIL HILLS, NC - October 29, 2026 -
October's coastal overwash on Hatteras Island highlights the importance of checking hidden deck connections at Outer Banks properties. SimpleSide Construction OBX's published deck-repair information emphasizes inspecting fasteners, framing, and the connection between the deck and the house, rather than focusing only on the walking surface.

Dare County reported in October that ocean overwash had closed N.C. Highway 12 between the Marc Basnight Bridge and Rodanthe, restricting visitor access to Hatteras Island while the highway remained threatened. On October 26, NCDOT reported that high tides from a nor'easter had damaged about 1,200 feet of pavement near the Pea Island Visitor Center and continued to disrupt roadwork. These notices document coastal conditions and travel disruptions, but they do not establish damage to individual homeowners' decks.

Salt exposure is a longer-running concern. An ICC technical article explains that red rust at deck nail connections can be a warning about structural components rather than a surface blemish. It discusses the

fasteners and hardware that support deck floors, rails and stairs, along with the deck-to-house connection. A clean-looking deck board does not show the condition of a joist hanger or the wood behind a ledger board.

For homeowners returning to a coastal property, the first step is to look for visible signs of damage rather than attempt structural repairs. Red-brown staining around accessible fasteners, a loose railing, soft wood or staining near the deck-to-house connection, and visible gaps or movement all warrant closer inspection. None of these signs alone explains the cause of deterioration or means the entire deck needs replacement. Where structural damage is suspected, a qualified professional should assess the deck before the affected area is used again.

The location and severity of the problem help determine the appropriate repair. Replacing a worn board is different from repairing a loose railing or a corroded connection that supports the deck. The contractor should identify what each connection supports, inspect the surrounding wood for damage and moisture, and determine whether any concealed areas need to be opened for a closer assessment. Depending on the findings, the work may involve a localized repair or more extensive structural repairs.

The SimpleSide deck-repair page describes assessing existing decks, replacing damaged boards, addressing loose fasteners, and considering larger structural repairs. It also distinguishes repair from replacement based on the deck's condition. Property owners can ask what an assessment covers beneath the deck, how the ledger and railing connections will be inspected, and which findings might change the proposed work. These questions provide a better basis for evaluating the structure than its surface appearance alone.

The October overwash did not establish a new deck requirement or prove that a particular fastener corroded during the storm. Rust and deterioration can develop over years of exposure, and a post-storm inspection cannot determine when a problem began. Before traveling to a property on Hatteras Island, owners should also check current county and transportation notices. The reported road closures and visitor restrictions affected Hatteras Island, not every community in the Outer Banks.

The ICC article also explains that poor flashing where a deck meets a house can allow water into the connection, potentially damaging fasteners and nearby wood. Visible rust can signal a problem, but an intact-looking deck surface does not guarantee that the hidden connection is sound. An assessment focused only on the boards may miss deterioration where the deck attaches to the house. Although the October travel disruption may prompt owners to inspect their properties, it does not establish when any corrosion began.

SimpleSide Construction OBX provides deck-repair services that address damaged boards, loose fasteners, and structural concerns at coastal properties. The appropriate scope of work depends on the deck's actual condition, the connections that can be inspected, and any deterioration identified during a professional

assessment.

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Simpleside Construction OBX

SimpleSide Construction OBX is a family-owned, locally-owned coastal construction company serving the Outer Banks since 2015. Founded by Grant Smith, a Civil Engineering graduate of Old Dominion, the team specializes in custom deck building

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