



STAIRWAY DESIGN GUIDELINES

Code Requirements

RESIDENTIAL (SEE RCO 311.7 FOR DETAILS):

WIDTH (RCO 311.7.1) - Minimum 36" above handrail, 31 ½" below handrail if one handrail, 27" below handrail if two handrails.

HEADROOM (RCO 311.7.2) - Minimum 6' 8"

TREADS (RCO 311.7.5.2) - Minimum 9" (Maximum 3/8" deviation between largest and smallest)

RISERS (RCO 311.7.5.1) - Maximum 8 ¼" (Maximum 3/8" deviation between largest and smallest). Openings between treads may not permit the passage of a 4" sphere.

LANDINGS (RCO 311.7.6) - Width cannot be less than the stairway, and a minimum of 36" in the direction of travel.

ILLUMINATION (RCO 311.7.9) - Stairs shall be provided illumination per RCO 303.6.

HANDRAILS (RCO 311.7.8.1) - Handrails shall be provided on at least one side of each continuous flight (4 or more risers) measured vertically 34"-38" from the sloped plane adjoining the tread nosing.

GUARDS (RCO 312.1) - When Stairs exceed 30" above grade at any point within 36" horizontally of the open side, a guard is required. When required, guards shall be a minimum of 34" high and a maximum of 38" high when also used as a handrail.

COMMERCIAL (SEE OBC 1009 FOR DETAILS):

WIDTH (OBC 1009.1) - Minimum 44" (But in compliance with OBC 1005.1 and 1007.3)

HEADROOM (OBC 1009.2) - Minimum 6' 8"

TREADS (OBC 1009.4) - Minimum 11" (Maximum 3/8" deviation between largest and smallest)

RISERS (OBC 1009.4) - Minimum 4", maximum 7" (Maximum 3/8" deviation between largest and smallest).

LANDINGS (OBC 1009.5) - Length and width cannot be less than the width of the stairway but the length need not exceed 48" in the direction of travel.

ILLUMINATION - Stairs shall be provided illumination per OBC 1205.4.

HANDRAILS (OBC 1009.12) - Except within individual dwelling units handrails shall be provided on both sides of stairs, continuous, 34"-38" measured vertically from the sloped plane adjoining the tread nosing and meet the graspability requirements of OBC 1012.3.

GUARDS (OBC 1013) - When Stairs exceed 30" above grade at any point within 36" horizontally of the open side, a guard is required. See 1013.2 for specific height regulations.

STAIRWAY DIAGRAMS

Refer to Code Requirements

NOTE: DRAWING IS FOR VISUAL REFERENCE ONLY. NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION. DO NOT SCALE FROM DRAWING.

