

2020 STAIRWAY QUICK TIPS R311

LaGrange Co. Bldg. Dept. (260) 499-6305

- must be a minimum 36" wide above the handrail between the finished walls with minimum 6'-8" clear head room above the tread nosing
- spiral stairways have other requirements
- exceptions are permitted for replacing a stairway in an existing structure
- vertical rise is limited to 151 inches in any one run before a required landing

TREADS

- minimum tread depth of 9" (not including a nosing) w/ variations no greater than 3/8"
- winder treads have other requirements
- exterior plastic composite treads must comply w/ ASTM D7032

RISERS

- maximum riser height of 8 1/4" tread to tread w/ variations no greater than 3/8"
- open risers are permitted on all stairs that rise less than 30"
- open risers on stairs rising above 30" are permitted when the space between treads is less than 4"

NOSINGS

- minimum of 3/4", maximum of 1 1/4" on treads, landings and floors to stairs
- no variations greater than 3/8"
- 1" is typical size of nosing overhang, not required on treads 11" or more

LANDINGS

- minimum of 36" x 36", odd shapes have different requirements
- are required at the top & bottom of each stairway (except at the top of interior stairs with a door that swings away from the stairs or bottom of non-required exterior stairs) and each ramp
- are required inside & outside each exterior door and not more than one stair riser below the threshold unless the threshold is less than 30" above a walking surface
- within 1 1/2" of the threshold on the interior of the required egress exit door
- within 8 1/4" of the threshold on the exterior of the required egress exit door

HANDRAILS

- are required on one side of a stairway with four or more risers
- 34" – 38" high measured vertically from the nosing of the tread
- must be 1 1/2" away from the wall and have a circular diameter 1 1/4" - 2" or a non-circular perimeter between 4" - 6 1/4". Handrails greater than 6-1/4" must have a recess area on both sides and meet other requirements
- ends must terminate into wall or newel post
- must not project more than 4 1/2" into the stairway on either side

GUARDS

- required when walking surface is more than 30" vertically & 36" horizontally
- set not less than 36" above a walking surface, between 34-38" when serving as a handrail on open side of stairs
- vertical spindles set less than 4" apart, insect screening is not a guard

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