

BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR STAIRWAYS, GUARDS, AND HANDRAILS

RCO Section 311& 312

Stairways

- RCO 311.7.1 Minimum stairway width is 36"
- RCO 311.7.2 Minimum clear headroom measured vertically from the nosing is 80".
- RCO 311.7.4.1 Maximum riser height to be 8-1/4"
Riser height in any flight of stairs cannot vary more than 3/8"
- RCO 311.7.4.2 Minimum tread depth to be 9" measured from nose to nose
- RCO 311.7.4.3 Openings between risers and treads to be less than 4"
- RCO 311.7.5 A landing no less than 36" deep is required at the top and bottom of a stairway. A single stairway is limited to a maximum rise of 12'. A landing is not required at the top of interior stairways when a door does not swing over the stairway.

Handrails

- RCO 311.7.7 Handrail is required on at least one side of a stairway with 4 or more risers.
- RCO 311.7.7.1 Vertical height of handrail is to be 34"-38" from the nosing.
- RCO 311.7.7.2 Handrail shall be continues from directly above the top riser to directly above the bottom riser. Ends of handrail shall return to the wall or terminate at newel posts.
- RCO 311.7.7.3 Type I handrail is to be 1-1/4"-2" round or 1-1/2"x1-1/2" square.

Guards

- RCO 312.1 Guards are required along open walking surfaces (stairs, ramps, landings, etc.) located more than 30" measured vertically to the floor or grade below at any point within 36" horizontally to the edge of the open side.
- RCO 312.2 Guards are to be a minimum height of 36"
Guards on the open sides of stairways to be a minimum height of 34"
- RCO 312.3 The opening between the walking surface and the bottom of the guard, and between spindles is to be less than 4"

Revised 1/6/14

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