

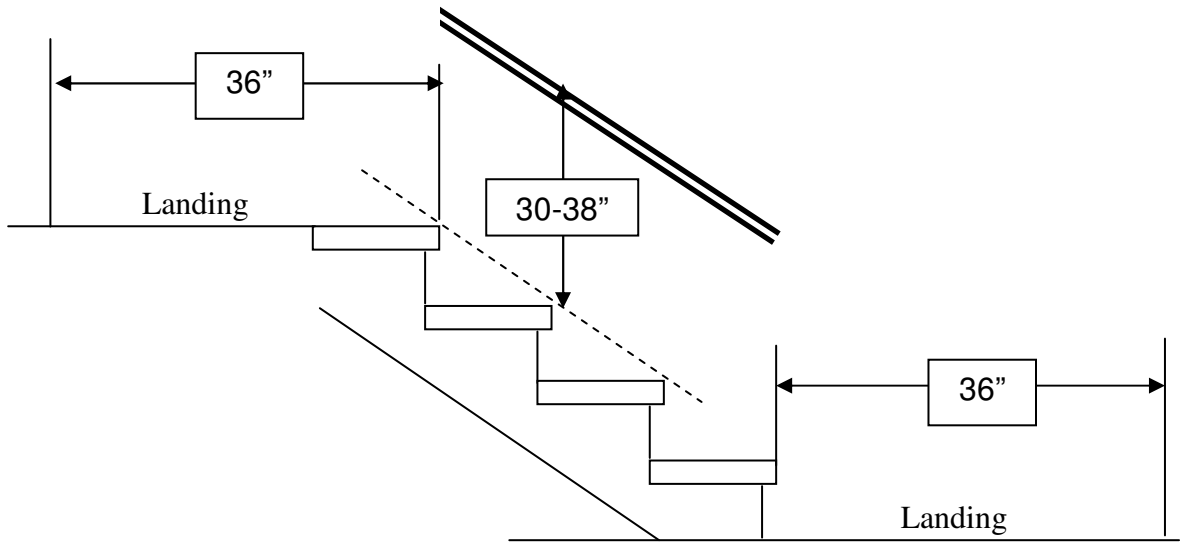
Stairway Safety

Stairways and Landings



Code Requirements

City of Appleton
Public Works-Inspection Division
100 North Appleton Street
Appleton, WI 45911
920-832-6411



A stairway consists of three elements

1. Steps
2. Landings
3. Guards and Handrails

Comm 21.04 Stairways and elevated areas.

(1) SCOPE. Every interior and exterior stairway, including tub access steps but excluding non-required basement stairways which lead directly to the building exterior and stairways leading to attics or crawl spaces, shall conform to the requirements of this section.

(2) DETAILS. (a) Width. 1. Except for spiral staircases under subd. 2., stairways shall measure at least 36 inches in width. Handrails and associated trim may project a maximum of 4.5 inches into the required width at each side of the stairway.

2. Spiral staircases shall be at least 26 inches wide measured from the outer edge of the supporting column to the inner edge of the handrail.

(b) Riser height. 1. a. Except for spiral staircases under subd. 2., risers may not exceed 8 inches in height measured vertically from tread to tread.

b. At the top and bottom of a flight, measurement shall be taken from the top of the nosing to the finished floor surface unless the finished surface is carpeting, in which case measurement shall be made to the hard surface below the carpeting.

2. Risers in spiral staircases may not exceed 9.5 inches in height measured vertically from tread to tread.

(c) Tread depth. 1. 'Rectangular treads.' Rectangular treads shall have minimum tread depth of 9 inches measured horizontally from nosing to nosing.

2. 'Spiral staircase treads.' Spiral staircase treads shall have a minimum tread depth of 7 inches from nosing to nosing measured at a point 12 inches from the narrow end of the tread.

3. 'Winder treads in series.' Two or more winder treads may be placed immediately adjacent to each other anywhere in a stairway provided both of the following conditions are met:

a. The winder treads shall have a minimum tread depth of 7 inches measured at a point 12 inches from the narrow end of the tread.

b. The depth of the immediately adjoining winder treads shall be equal at a point 12 inches from the narrow end.

4. 'Individual winder treads.' a. An individual winder tread may be placed between rectangular treads or at the end of a flight of rectangular treads provided the tread depth, measured at a point 12 inches from the narrow end, is equal to the tread depth of the rectangular steps in the flight.

b. There may be more than one individual winder tread in a stairway or in a flight of stairs.

(d) Headroom. 1. Stairways shall be provided with a minimum headroom clearance of 76 inches measured vertically from a line parallel to the nosing of the treads to the ceiling, soffit or any overhead obstruction directly above that line.

2. The headroom clearance shall be maintained over an intermediate landing, bottom of a stairway for a minimum distance of 36 inches in the direction of travel of the stairway.

(e) Uniformity. 1. Within a stairway flight, tread depths and riser heights may vary by a maximum of 3/16 inch.

1
OR
2
Family
Only