



"THE MARITIME CITY"

BUILDING & FIRE SAFETY

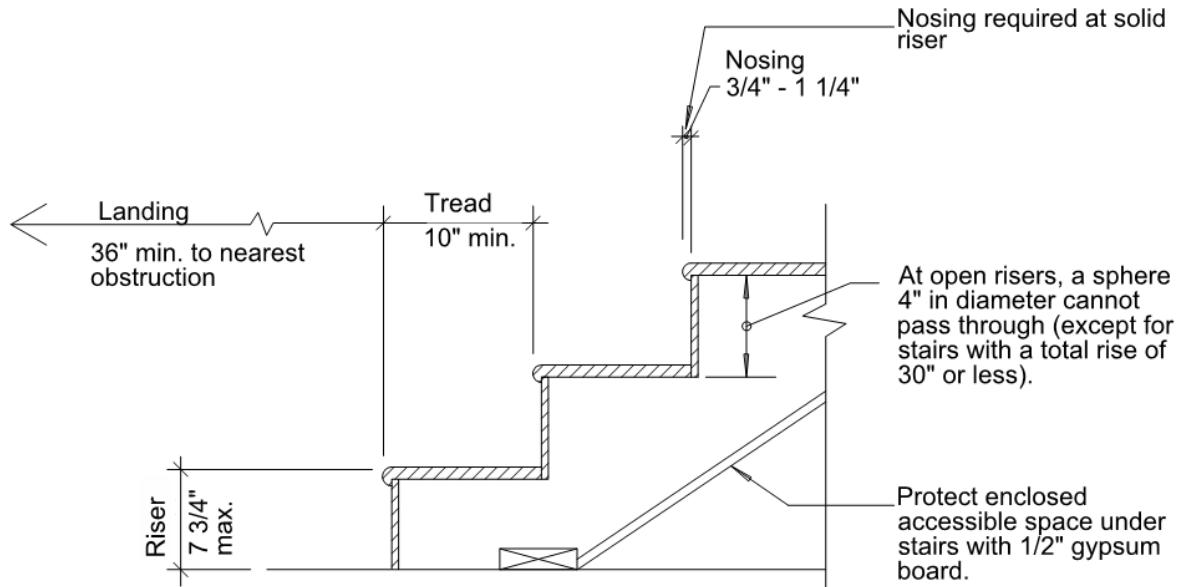
3510 GRANDVIEW STREET | GIG HARBOR, WA 98335

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CLIENT ASSISTANCE MEMO

Basic Stairs

This Tip Sheet reflects code requirements of the 2015 International Residential Code (IRC) with Washington State Amendments.

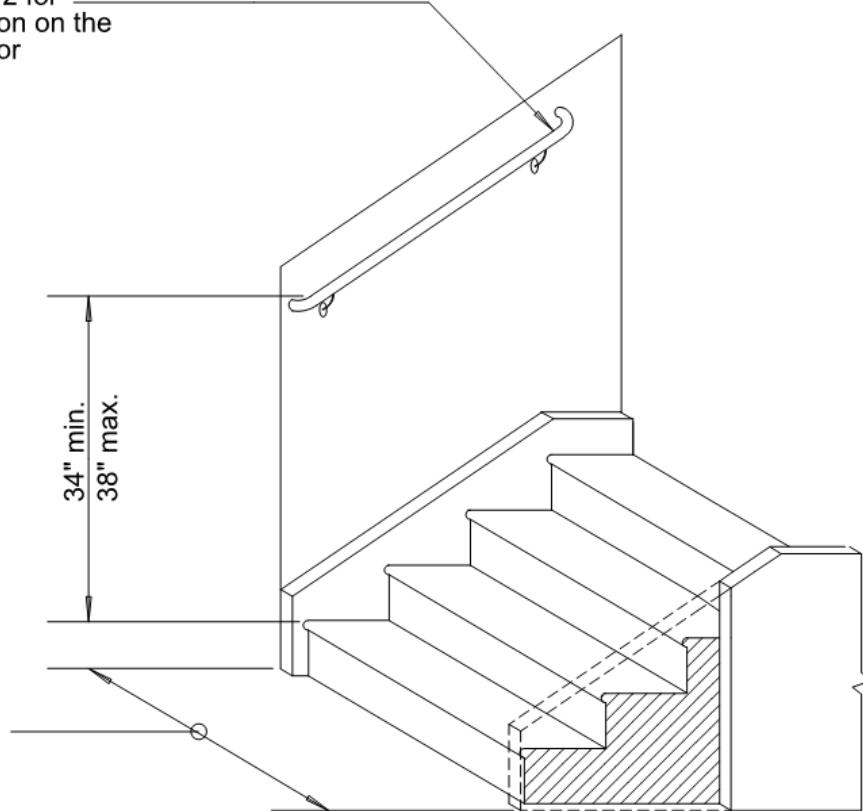


- **Stair treads and risers:** The largest tread or riser within any flight of stairs is not to exceed the smallest by more than 3/8". (R311.7.5)
- **Illumination:**
- Interior stairways shall be provided with an artificial light source to illuminate landings and treads. There shall be a wall switch at each floor level to control the light source where the stairway has 6 or more risers. (R303.7)
- Exterior stairways shall be provided with an artificial light source located at the top landing of the stairway, and located at the bottom landing where accessing a basement. (R303.8)
- **Handrails:** Handrails are required on at least one side for stairways with four or more risers. See Tip Sheet 2 for additional information regarding handrails. (R311.7.8)
- **Landings required:** Landings are required at the top and the bottom of stairways. A floor landing is not required at the top of an interior flight of stairs, provided a door does not swing over the stairs. (R311.7.6)
- **Landing dimensions:** A landing extending the width of the stair and measuring a minimum of 36" in the direction of travel is required at the top and bottom of every stairway. (R311.7.6)
- **Circular, winding or spiral stairways:** For exceptions related to the construction of circular, winding, or spiral stairways. (R311.7.5.2.1 & R311.7.10)

Stair runs with 4 or more risers require a handrail.
See Tip Sheet 2 for more information on the requirements for handrails.

R311.7.8

Minimum required stairway width is 36".
R311.7.1



Typical Stair Elevation

The minimum headroom of a stair is 6'-8".
(Measured vertically from the sloped plane adjoining the tread nosing)

5.

Overhead obstruction

No more than 147 inches between floor levels or landings.
R311.7.3

The intent of this Tip Sheet is to provide a general understanding of the code requirements and does not address the subject in great detail. Should you have any questions please call the Building Department at (253) 851-6170.