Notes:
1. Stairway shall not be less than 36 inches in width.
2. Stairways risers (rise) shall not be greater than 7-3/4 inch.
3. Stairway treads (run) shall be a minimum of 10 inches.
4. The length of treads and the height of risers shall not vary more than 3/8 of an inch.
5. Riser openings shall not exceed 4 inches between the treads.
6. The nose of each tread with solid risers must be between 3/4 of an inch and 1-1/4 inch. Nosing is not required when tread depths are 11 inches or more.
7. Composite materials may require addition framing. Refer to the manufacturer’s installation instructions.
8. Stairways are required to be illuminated, including landings and treads.
9. Where the top of the guard also serves as a handrail on the open side of a stairway, the top shall be no less than 34 inches and no more than 38 inches above the edge of the treads.
10. When installed in a Fire Severity Zone, walking surface material of stairways/decks shall comply with CRC Section R327.9.3.
11. Stringers shall be positively anchored to the primary self-supporting structure to resist lateral and vertical forces. (Toe-nailing is not acceptable to accomplish this.)
12. If one side of the stairway is solid (example: wall of the structure, etc.), guardrails are only required on the open side. Otherwise, guardrails are required on both sides.
13. Continuous handrails are required on at least one side.

Guard is required if more than 30 inches above finished grade.

When the deck is 30 inches or more above finished grade, guards are required. Guard members shall not be spaced to allow a 4-inch diameter sphere to pass.

Openings for required guards on the sides of the stair treads shall not allow a 4-3/8 inch diameter sphere to pass.

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**HANDRAILS**

**CALIFORNIA RESIDENTIAL CODE** – QUICK CODE REFERENCES

**Exterior Stairway Illumination Requirements**
- Exterior stairway illumination* - Section R303.7

**Glazing Adjacent to Stairways**
- Glazing adjacent to stairs* - Section R308.4.6
- Glazing adjacent to the bottom stair landing* - Section R308.4.7

**Guardrails**
- Guard requirements - Section R312.1
- Where guards are required - Section R312.1.1
- Guard height requirements* - Section R312.1.2
- Opening limitations* - Section R312.1.3
- Loads - Table R301.5

**Handrails**
- Handrails - Section R311.7.8
- Height* - Section R311.7.8.1
- Continuity* - Section R311.7.8.2
- Grip-size - Section R311.7.8.3
- Loads - Table R301.5

**Landings and Walking Surface**
- Landings for stairways* - Section R311.7.6
- Stairway walking surface - Sections R311.7.7

**Stairway Widths and Headroom**
- Stairway Width* - Section R311.7.1
- Stairway Headroom* - Section R311.7.2

**Stairway Treads, Risers and Nosing**
- Stair treads and risers - Section R311.7.5
- Stair risers (rise)* - Section R311.7.5.1
- Stair treads (run) - Section R311.7.5.2
- Tread nosing* - Section R311.7.5.3
- Attachment - Section R311.5.1

**Wildland–Urban Interface (WUI) Area** - Section R327.9.2

*Section includes exceptions.

A permit [form HCD 50](https://www.bsc.ca.gov/codes) is required from HCD when a deck's landing exceeds 12 square feet and is in an HCD Mobilehome Park. T25 CCR Section 1018(d)(5).
Always refer to the actual and current text of applicable laws and regulations. The California Residential Code is available at [www.bsc.ca.gov/codes](http://www.bsc.ca.gov/codes). This document is not intended to be all-inclusive.

Unaltered existing stairways are subject to the requirements that were in effect during the original approval/installation.