



Stairs & Railings

STAIR & RAILING CODE 2024



International Residential Code (IRC)

The staircase code is found in Section 311 Means of Egress of the International Residential Code (IRC), sub-section 311.7 Stairways.

STAIRCASE TERMS

Stringer: The stringer is the entire sawtooth-shaped member upon which risers and tread rest.

Riser: A riser is the vertical measurement of each stair. Risers can either be enclosed or left open, as in deck stairs or basement stairs. The board that encloses the back of the step is also called a riser.

Tread: The tread is the horizontal section of each stair, sometimes called the run. This is the surface that the user steps on.

Landing: A landing is a platform between two flights of stairs. It is also the approach space at the top and bottom of the stairs.

Nosing: The section of the tread that overhangs the riser below.

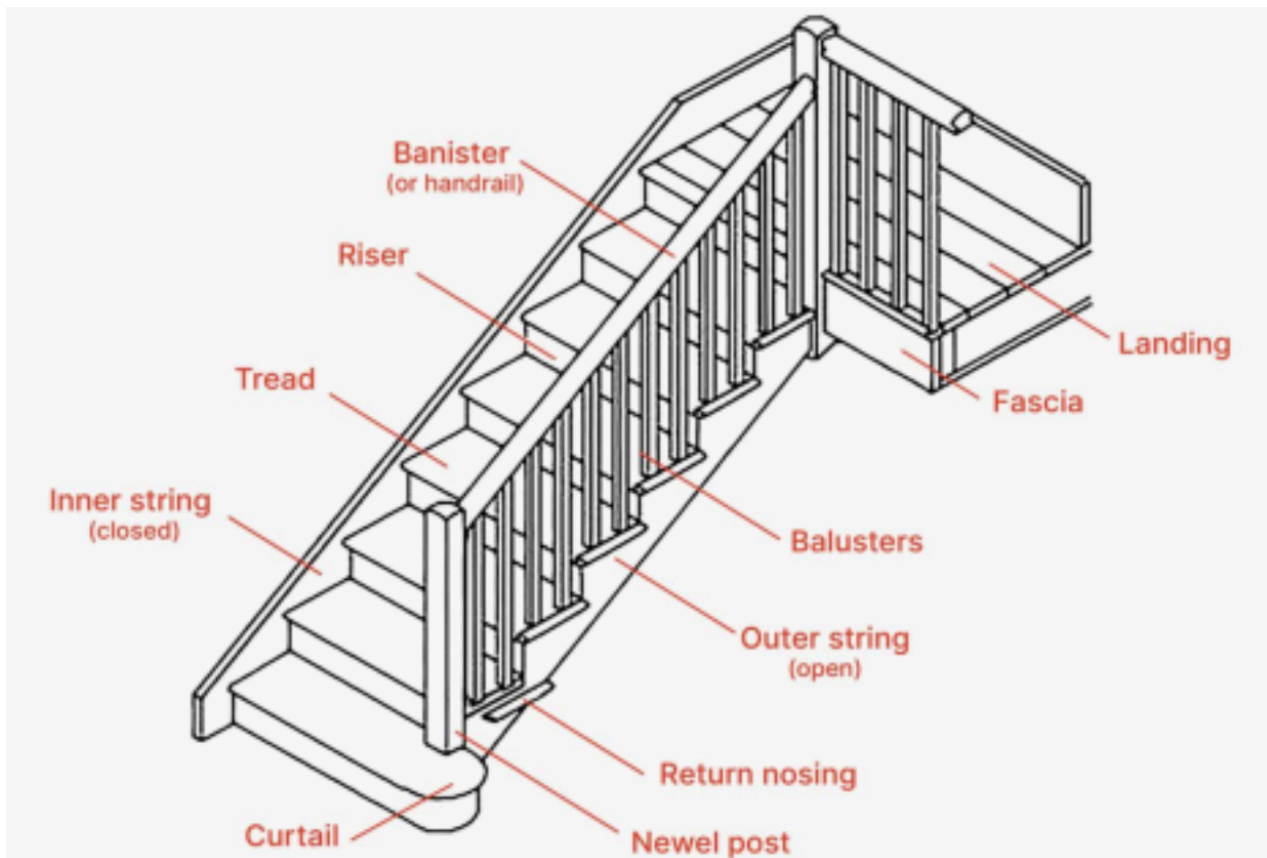
Staircase Width: Width refers to the width of risers and treads from side to side.

Headroom: Headroom is the vertical distance from the stair treads to the ceiling directly above.

TERMINOLOGY: STAIR RAILING & STAIR GUARDS

Stair Railings: Run at an incline, up and down the stairs

Stair Guards: Run horizontally along a flat area that has a drop on the other side



RESIDENTIAL STAIRS CODE FLORIDA

1. Minimum head height of 6 feet 8 inches. (Measure vertically from the top of any stair tread to the lowest point on the ceiling.)
2. Minimum stair width of 3 feet. (Staircase width refers to the side-to-side distance of the staircase, which must be at least 36 inches. This distance does not include handrails)
3. Risers maximum height 7 3/4. Risers must be at least 4 inches in height. - Open risers no taller than 4 inches.
4. Tread minimum 10 inches.
5. Stair nosing must be between 3/4 and 1-1/4 inches from the riser.
6. Stair treads cannot slope (incline) more than 1/4 inch from the back of the stair to the nosing.
7. Stair heights can vary by no more than 3/8-inch.

HANDRAIL REQUIREMENTS

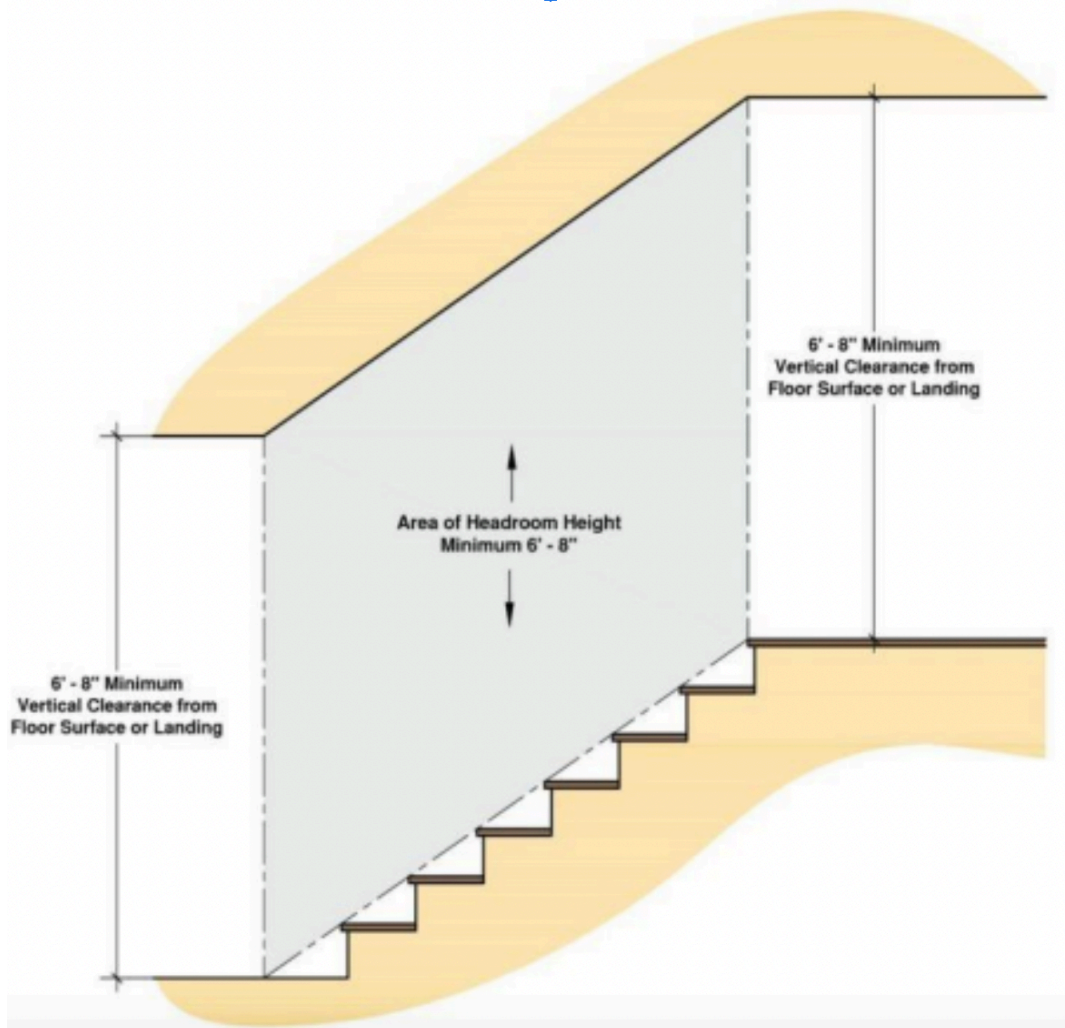
1. Handrails must be 34 to 38 inches above the nosing, and they must resist a 200 lb. - Handrails at the landings must be 42 inches.
2. The handrail cannot extend more than 3-1/2 inches into the stairway.
3. The handrail must be 1-1/4 to 2 inches wide and not extend more than 1-1/2 inches from the wall.
4. Stairways overlooking another space require openings in the stair rail no more than 4 inches in any direction.

LANDING REQUIREMENTS

1. Landings are required at the top and bottom of the stairs, as well as along a flight at least 12 feet or greater in height.
2. Landings must be 36 inches in width and depth.
3. Doors can be placed at the bottom landing but not on any other landing unless a 3-foot buffer is used to accommodate the door swing.

STAIRCASE LIGHTING

For any staircase that has six or more risers, there must be a wall switch at each floor level to control the light source.



STAIRCASE LIGHTING

