



# CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

## Building Permit Guide for: STEPS

### Checklist for Permit Application Submittal:

- Completed Residential Building Permit Application
- Copy of the homeowner's most recent PLAT OF SURVEY showing:
  - The proposed step(s) LOCATION and SIZE DIMENSIONS in relation to the building(s) and lot lines
  - The proposed material for construction
- TWO (2) SETS OF PLANS indicating:
  - Dimensions of risers and treads, handrails and guards

### Step/Stairs/Stoop Requirements: (Based on the 2015 IRC)

#### RISERS AND TREADS:

1. Maximum riser height shall be 7". Minimum tread depth shall be 10". The largest riser shall not exceed the smallest by more than "3/8" of an inch.
2. Where the total rise is 30" or greater above the floor or grade, the space between the treads shall not permit the passage of a 4" sphere.
3. Nosing shall be provided on stairways with solid risers. Nosing shall project between "3/4" and "1 1/4". Beveling of nosing shall not exceed "1/2". Nosing shall not be required where minimum tread depth is 11". Where a nosing is required, the nosing profile from the leading edge of the underside of the nosing to the riser shall have a slope not exceeding 30 degrees from the vertical. If the stairs are to be carpeted the carpet will create the nosing profile acceptable with the code.

#### HANDRAILS:

1. A handrail is required for stairways with more than four (4) risers. Handrail shall be continuous for the full length of the flight. Handrail ends shall be returned or shall terminate in newel posts or safety terminals.
2. Height shall be between 34" and 38" measured up from the nosing of the treads. Handrail clearance between the wall or guard and handrail shall be not less than "1 1/2".
3. Circular cross section of handrail shall have an outside diameter between "1 1/4" and "2". If handrail is not circular it shall have a perimeter dimension between 4" and "6 1/4" with a maximum cross section dimension of "2 1/4". Handrails with a perimeter greater than "6 1/4" shall provide a graspable finger recess area on both sides of the profile.

#### GUARDS:

1. Open sides of stairs with a total rise of 30" or greater shall have guards not less than 34" in height measured up from the nosing of the treads and shall be provided with intermediate rails that shall not allow the passage of a 4" sphere. Guards shall be continuous for the entire flight of stairs.

#### LANDINGS:

1. A landing or floor surface shall be provided at the top and bottom of each stairway. EXCEPTION: A floor or landing is not required at the top of an interior stairway, provided a door does not swing over the stairs.
2. Minimum dimensions for landings shall be 36"x36".