

## Residential Handrails and Guardrails

**Guardrails:** Porches, decks and raised floor surfaces located more than 30" above the floor or grade below shall have guards not less than 36" in height. Open sides of stairs with a total rise of more than 30" above the floor or grade below shall have guards not less than 34" in height measured vertically from the nosing of the treads. All guard openings are required to be spaced in such a manner that a 4" sphere will not pass through. The triangular opening formed by the riser, tread and bottom of a guard at the open side of a stairway are permitted to be of such a size that a sphere 6" cannot pass through. Openings for required guards on the sides of stair treads shall not allow a sphere 4<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" to pass through.

**Handrails:** A handrail shall be provided on at least one side of all stairs with four or more risers. All required handrails shall be continuous the full length of the stairs from a point directly above the top riser of a flight to a point directly above the lowest riser of the flight. The top of handrails shall be placed not less than 34" or more than 38" above the nosing of treads and landings.

