



## LATAH COUNTY PLANNING & BUILDING

### Latah County Courthouse

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# STAIRWAYS, LANDINGS, GUARDS AND HANDRAILS

2012 IRC [Sections R311 & R312]

2012 IBC [Chapter 10]

## Permit Requirements

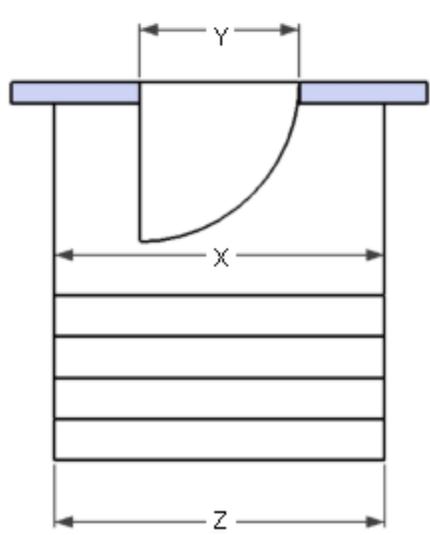
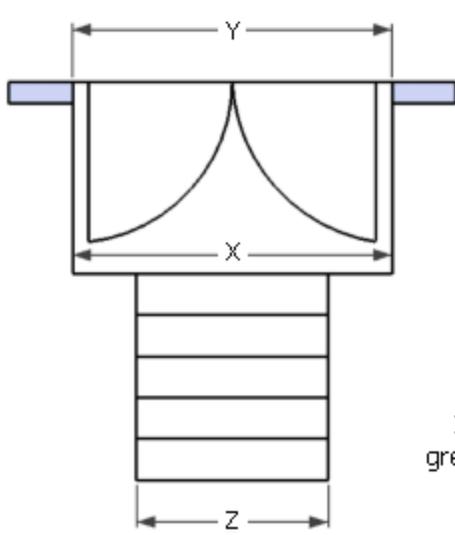
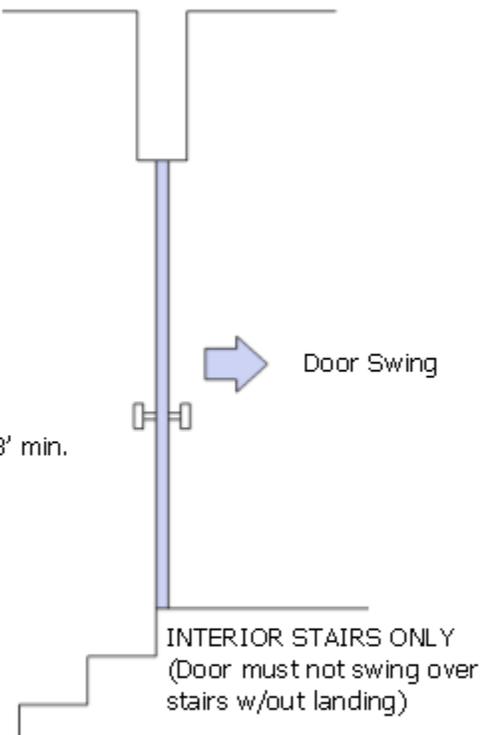
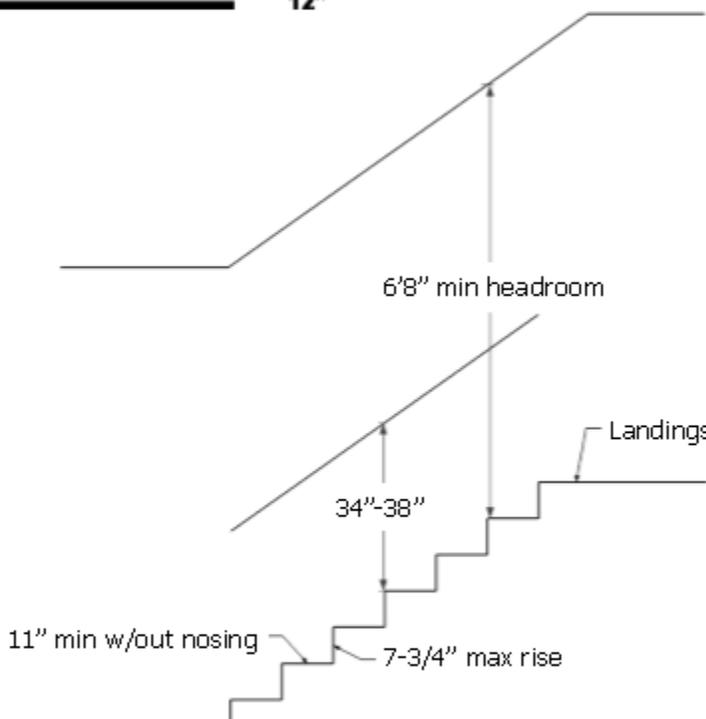
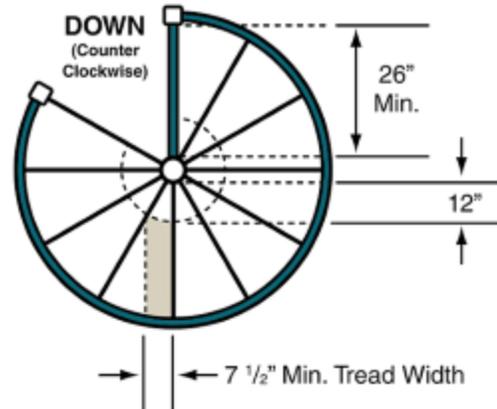
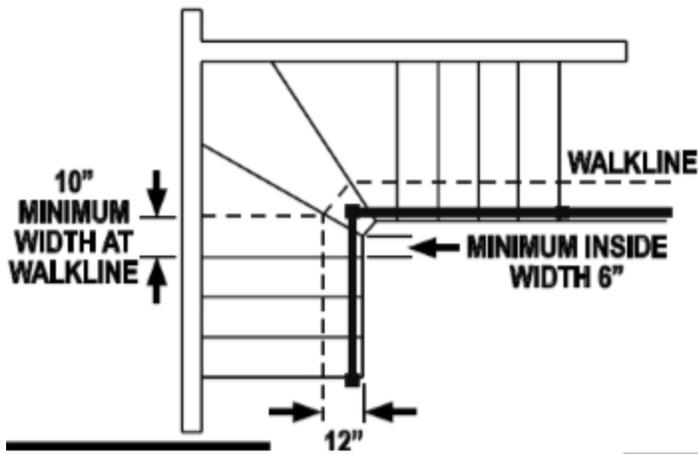
- Any construction, alteration or repair of a stairway requires a building permit.

## Stairways

- The width of the stairway shall not be less than 36" for a residential application and not less than 44" for a stairway serving an occupant load of 50 or more.
- The maximum riser height shall be 7-3/4" and the minimum tread depth shall be 10" in a residential stairway. A maximum riser height of 7" and minimum tread depth of 11" is required for stairways serving other than an R-3 occupancy.
- Stairway rise and run measurements shall not vary more than 3/8" from top to bottom.
- The minimum headroom allowed in all parts of a stairway shall not be less than 6'-8" except in a spiral stairway, which may have a minimum height of 6'-6".
- Solid risers with a depth of less than 11", shall require a nosing of not less than 3/4" or more than 1-1/4". The greatest nosing projection shall not exceed the smallest by more than 3/8".
- An alteration or replacement of an existing stairway in an existing structure shall not be required to comply with the requirements of a new stairway where the existing space and construction will not allow a reduction in pitch or slope.
- Any portion of the stairway within 8" of the earth must be either pressure treated or naturally decay resistant lumber such as redwood or cedar.

## Landings

- There shall be a floor or landing on each side of an exterior door except the exterior side of a sliding door. There shall also be a floor or landing at the top and bottom of each stairway although an interior stairway may open to steps at the top provided the door does not swing over the steps.
- Every landing shall have a minimum dimension of 36" measured in the direction of travel.



X = Landing Width  
 Y = Doorway Width  
 Z = Stair Width

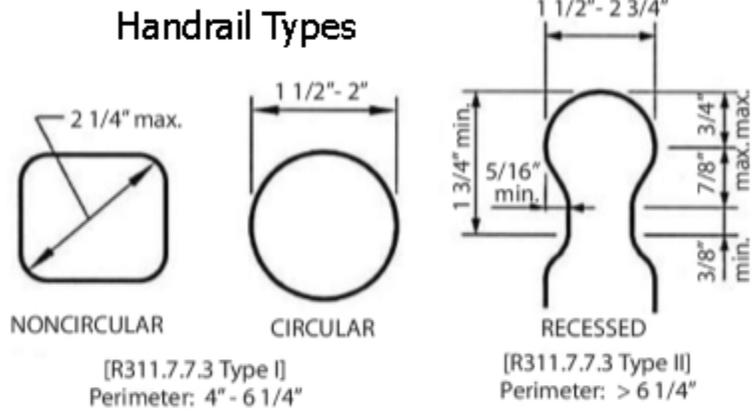
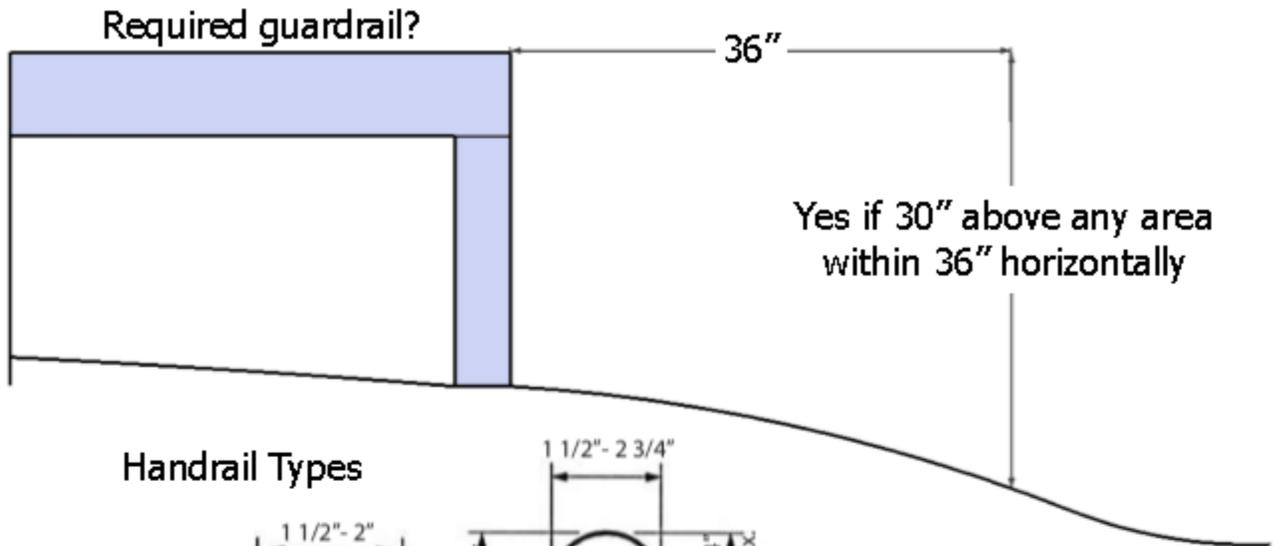
X shall be equal to or greater than both Y and Z

## **Guards**

- Porches, balconies, or raised floor surfaces located more than 30" above the floor or grade within 36" horizontally shall have guards.
- The minimum height of guards shall be 36".
- Guards shall be constructed that the top rail to support a 200lb load in any direction and the in-fill panel to support 50lb in any single sq. ft.
- Required guards shall have intermediate rails or ornamental closures that do not allow the passage of a sphere 4" in diameter. The exception is the triangular opening formed by the riser, tread and bottom rail of the guard, which may be of such a size that a 6" sphere cannot pass through.

## **Handrails**

- All stairways with four or more risers are required to have at least one handrail.
- The top of handrails shall be constructed not less than 34" and not more than 38" above the nosing of the stair treads and landings.
- Handrails shall be constructed to support a 200lb load in any direction.
- Handrails shall be continuous the full length of the stairs and ends shall be returned to the wall or terminate in newel posts or safety terminals.
- The handgrip portion of handrails shall not be less than 1-1/4" or more than 2" in cross-sectional dimensions. If the handrail is not circular it shall have a perimeter dimension of at least 4" and not greater than 6-1/4" with a maximum cross section of 2-1/4".
- Handrails adjacent to a wall shall have a minimum of 1-1/2" clear space between the wall and the handrail.



In-fill paneling must resist 50lb per sq ft

Top rail and Handrail must be able to resist a 200lb force in any direction

Handrail required for 4 steps or more

