

## **GUARDRAILS AND HANDRAILS**

Guardrails are required for any floor 30" or more above finished grade, (even if screened)

Minimum guard rail height, 30" from the finished floor surface.

Maximum opening between guard rail balusters is 4"

Maximum opening between toe rail and deck surface, 4".

Any stairway containing 4 or more risers must be equipped with a graspable handrail.

Minimum stair handrail height, 34", measured from the nose of the stair tread, and a maximum height of 38".

Maximum opening between handrail balusters on stairway is 4 3/8"

Stairways must be a minimum of 36" wide, excluding the handrail.

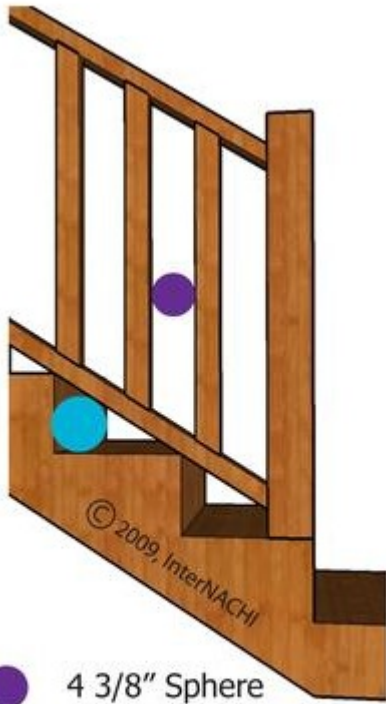
Stair treads must a minimum of 10", if including a toe (1 1/2" max) 11" if not including a toe.

Stair risers must be a minimum of 4" and a maximum of 7 3/4" with no more than 5/8" variance between all risers.

Opening at tread, riser, and rail triangle: 6" max.

Open stair risers are limited to a minimum 4" opening.

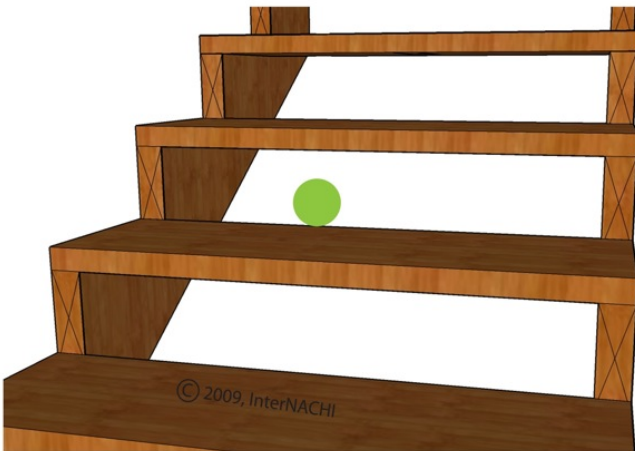
Stair handrail must resist 200# load, in any direction at the top.



● 4 3/8" Sphere

● 6" Sphere

Permitted spacing at stairs. Larger spacing presents a child-safety issue.



● 4" Sphere

The image above depicts a set of stairs with open risers. Most deck stairs have open risers and are not safe for children. Risers may be open but should not allow the passage of a 4-inch diameter sphere.

Stairs with four or more risers should have a handrail on at least one side. Handrails should be graspable, continuous and smooth.

