



STAIRS

ONTARIO BUILDING CODE

The Ontario Building Code requires that all stairs meet specific requirements related to the rise, run, and width.

Steps

Steps are required to be constructed with equal rise and run throughout each flight of stairs measured from the ground at the bottom of the stairs to the top of an intermediate landing or the top of the deck. The top step and bottom step are usually the most problematic due to grading changes.

Stairs are required to be a minimum 34 inches wide. A flight of stairs must be provided with a landing if the change in height exceeds 12 feet 1 inch.

Each step within a flight of stairs is required to have a 1 inch nosing.

The table below lists the minimum and maximum dimensions.

Stair Type	All Steps		Rectangular Treads	
	Rise (inches)		Run (inches)	
	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.
Private*	4 ¹⁵ / ₁₆ "	7 ⁷ / ₈ "	10 ¹ / ₁₆ "	14"
Public**	4 ¹⁵ / ₁₆ "	7 ⁷ / ₈ "	11"	No Limit
* Private Stairs – interior stairs within and exterior stairs serving a house or individual dwelling unit, and exterior stairs serving a garage that serves a house or single dwelling unit				
** Public Stairs – all other stairs not considered to be service stairs or private stairs				

Guards and Handrails

A guard is required on the stair where the stairs are higher than 23 ⁵/₈ inches. Guard pickets cannot be spaced more than 3 ¹⁵/₁₆ inches apart. No horizontal members are installed to the guard between 5 ¹/₂ inches and 35 ⁷/₁₆ inches that could facilitate climbing.

Interior stairs with 3 or more steps and exterior stairs that have 4 or more steps require a handrail. Handrails must be located at a height between 34 ¹/₁₆ inches and 42 ¹/₁₆ inches.

SECTION

