



Windows Over Stairs, Ramps & Landings

The Building Standards Department issues Builder Tips as part of our customer service program. They are designed to provide an improved understanding of the Building Code and to reduce the costs associated with correcting infractions. Please contact your area building inspector for further information or call the Building Standards Department at 905.475.4848 extension 2189

9.8.8.1. Required Guards (See Note A-9.8.8.1)

(7) In dwelling units, glazing installed over stairs, ramps and landings that extends to less than 900 mm (2 ft 11 in) above the surface of the treads, ramp or landing shall be

- (a) protected by guards, in accordance with this Subsection, or
- (b) non-openable and designed to withstand the specified lateral loads for guards as provided in Articles 4.1.5.14.

OBJECTIVE

Operable windows installed in stairwells and having a sill height of less than 900 mm (2 ft 11 in) above the finished landing tread, or ramp, shall be protected by guards.

The illustration depicts the general requirement of a picket guard showing the required height, picket spacing and elements that will not facilitate climbing. In this configuration the guard shall not incorporate any horizontal rails above 140 mm or any attachments that will facilitate climbing. The final guard installation shall not project into the landing or stair in such a way that will diminish the required stair or landing width.

The Supplementary Standard SB-7 (SB-7) contains illustrations of guards that will meet the loading requirements and all other code requirements if installed as illustrated in SB-7. If a glass guard is selected to protect an openable window, the glass must be safety glass type and must meet the loading requirements specified in 9.8.8.2. If the window installed in the stairwell is non-operable and constructed to meet the loading requirements in 9.8.8.2. the window need not be protected by a guard.

