

# REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDENTIAL DECK CONSTRUCTION

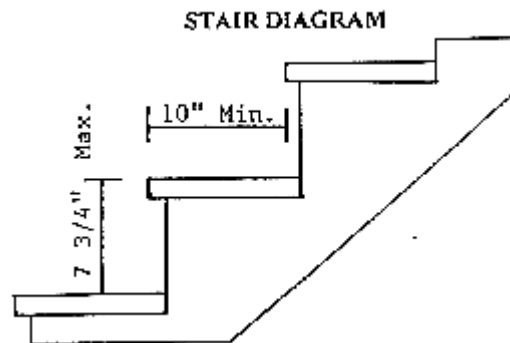
1. Raised floor surfaces located more than **30 inches** above the floor or grade shall have guardrails not less than **36 inches** in height.
2. Open sides of stairs with a total rise of more than **30 inches** above floor or grade below shall have guardrails not less than **34 inches** in height, measured vertically from the nosing of the treads.
3. Guardrails shall have intermediate rails or ornamental closures which do not allow passage of an object **4 inches** or more in diameter.
4. Maximum riser opening shall not exceed **4 inches**.
5. The triangular openings formed by the riser, tread and bottom rail of a guard at the open side of a stairway may be of such a size that a sphere **6 inches** cannot pass through.
6. Decks may project a maximum of **6 feet** into the required front or rear yard.
7. The maximum riser height for stairs shall be **7 ¾ inches**. (*see diagram below*)

NOTE: the greatest riser height within any flight of stairs shall not exceed the smallest by more than **3/8** of an inch.

8. The minimum tread depth for stairs shall be **10 inches**. (*See diagram below*)

NOTE: The greatest tread depth within any flight of stairs shall not exceed the smallest by more than **3/8** of an inch.

9. Design loads for deck construction shall be based on a minimum uniform distributed live load of **40 pounds per square foot**.



**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE**

**NORFOLK FIRE DIVISION  
PREVENTION BUREAU (PERMITS & CODES)  
701 KOENIGSTEIN AVENUE  
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(402) 844-2060**

**Building permit applications may be obtained at the above address**

**Please review diagram on next page**

## EXAMPLE DIAGRAM

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