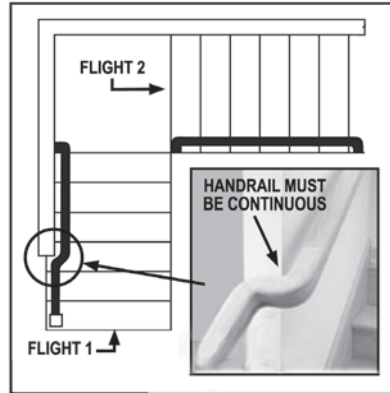


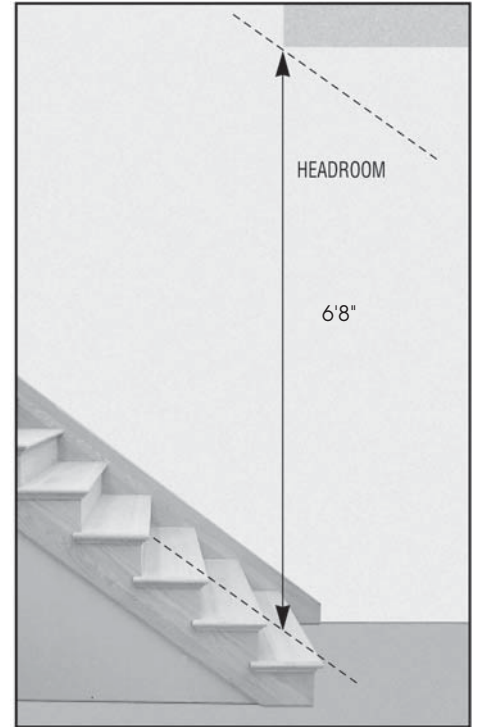


WIDTH

Minimum width of stairs is normally 36". These codes usually do not include handrail projections, which are discussed at right. Note: For two people to pass comfortably and for allowance of the passage of furniture, 42" wide and larger stairs are recommended.

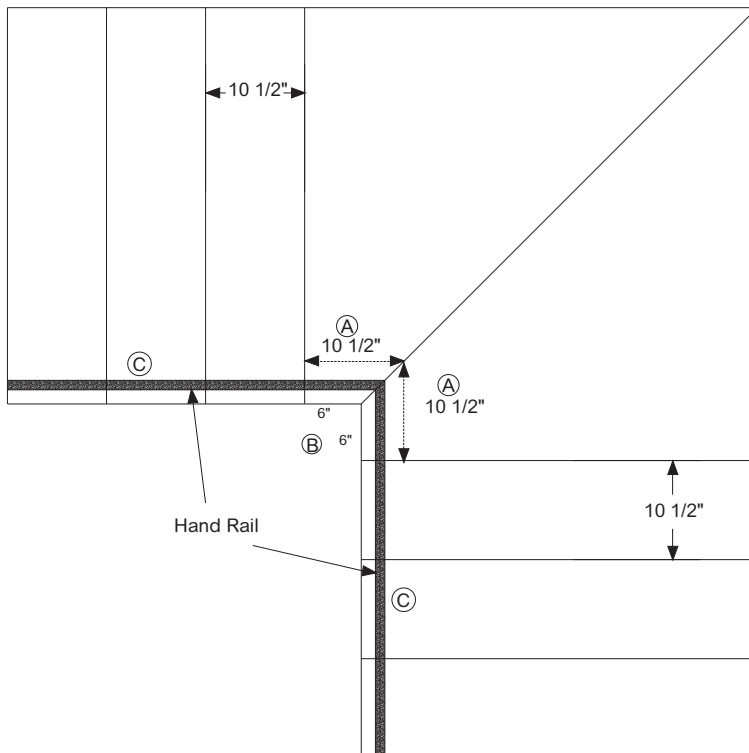


- Rail must be continuous on full length of stairway.



HEADROOM

Minimum headroom codes vary but are generally measured vertically from the lowest portion of the ceiling to a point along the imaginary line connecting the tread nosings.



WINDER

- Width of the tread at a point not more than 12" from side where tread is narrowest must be equal to the tread depth of a straight run tread.
- The minimum depth of any tread is no less than 6".
- The continuous rail must be on the side where the tread is narrowest.
- Rail must be continuous.
- Within any flight of stairs, the largest winder tread depth at 12" walk line shall not exceed the smallest by more than 3/8".

Always check and understand local building codes before specifying ANY stair parts.



RAKE RAIL HEIGHT

Rake rail heights are measured from top of the leading edge of the nosing to the point at the top of the rail directly above.

BALUSTER SPACING

A sphere 4-3/8 in Dia. cannot pass through.

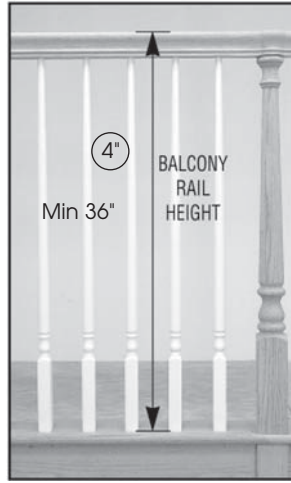
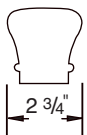
HANDRAIL GRIP SIZE
Round Rail



Min. 1-1/4" Dia.
Max. 2" Dia

PROFILE RAIL

Max. Diameter 2-3/4"



BALCONY RAIL HEIGHT

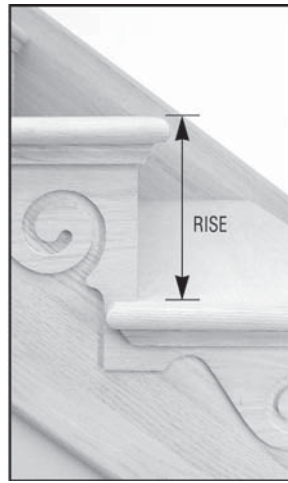
Balcony rail heights are measured from the finished floor surface to the top of the level rail.

BALUSTER SPACING

A sphere 4" in Dia. cannot pass through.



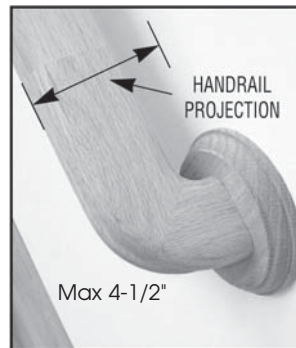
A related "sphere code" relates to a stair that uses shoe rail on an open stair. The size of the triangle formed by the tread, risers, and the bottom of the shoe rail is also governed by a sphere size, usually 6"



IRC 7 3/4" Max
MA Code 8 1/4" Max

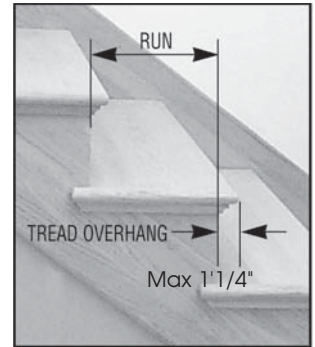
RISE

The individual rise measurement of a stair is measured from tread surface to tread surface. Some codes continue by specifying the greatest individual rise within any stair should not exceed the smallest by more than 3/8".



HANDRAIL PROJECTION

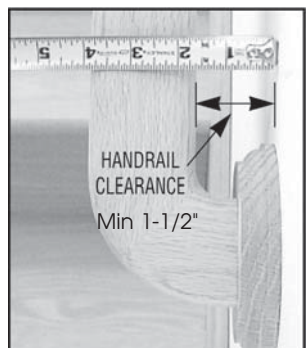
Projection of the handrail into the stair, measured from the edge of the rail to the wall, is generally listed at a maximum of 4 1/2".



IRC 10" Min
MA Code 9" Min

RUN

Individual tread run measurements are from riser line to riser line and do not include the overhang portion of the tread. In addition, most codes require a 3/4" to 1 1/4" tread overhang. Individual measurements of tread run (as well as measurements of tread overhang) cannot vary by more than 3/8" from the smallest to largest.



HANDRAIL CLEARANCE

Handrails adjacent to a wall require a space between the wall and the handrail (usually not less than 1 1/2"). This distance must also be kept between a handrail that passes the landing tread of a balcony rail section that returns on the stair.

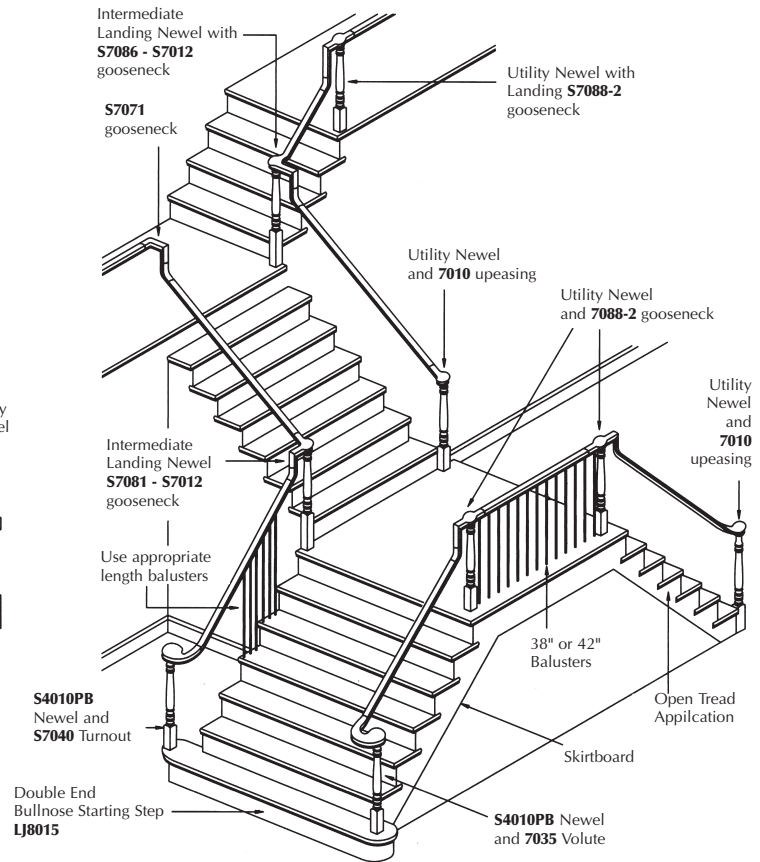
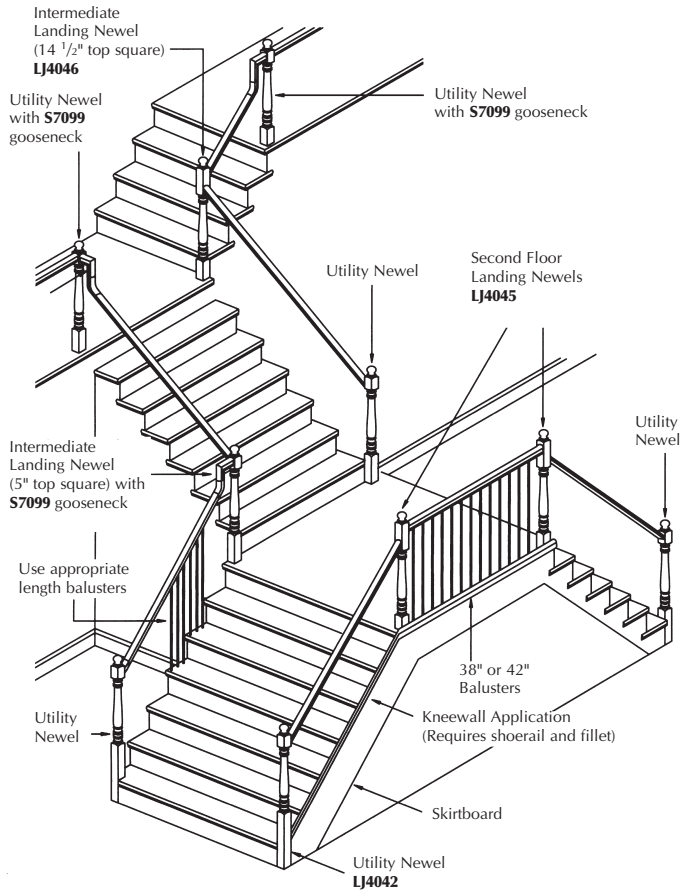
Always check and understand local building codes before specifying ANY stair parts.

Anatomy of a Stairway

The following diagrams illustrate many typical applications of Post to Post and Over the Post stair systems

Post to Post System

Over the Post System



Glossary of Stair Terms

Baluster - A vertical member which helps support the handrail. Usually set on a 4 1/2" center.

Fitting - Used when changing height or direction, for example: starting a balustrade (volute, turnout, starting easing with cap), at a landing (landing fitting assembly), and at a balcony.

Handrail - The horizontal or rake member of a balustrade system. It sits on top of the balusters and is supported by newel posts.

Newel Post - The major support for a balustrade system. Newels are larger than balusters and are located at the bottom and top of a stairway or at a turn in the handrail, such as at landing.

Riser - The vertical component of a step which, along with the stringers, supports the treads.

Starting Step - The first tread and riser at the bottom of a stairway.

Tread - The horizontal component of a step upon which one walks