

2013 California Residential Code Section R311-R312

Exterior Stairway: Must have a solid surface and can be concrete or pressure-treated lumber.

Stairway width: 36" minimum.

Headroom: 80" minimum measured vertically from a line connecting the edge of the nosings.

Stair treads and risers: Stair riser heights shall be 7.75 inches maximum. Stair tread depths shall be 10 inches minimum. A nosing not less than 0.75 inch but not more than 1.25 inches shall be provided on stairways with solid risers. A nosing is not required where the tread depth is a minimum of 11 inches.

Stairway landings: Stairways must have a landing, top and bottom, equal to the width of stairs. The minimum dimension measured in the direction of travel shall equal to the width of the stairway, but need not exceed 36" where the stairway has a straight run.

Handrails: Handrails must be 34" — 38" above run, commencing at first riser to last and must return to wall or end in a newel post. A Type 1 handrail shall have an outside diameter between 1.25" and 2" or shall provide equivalent graspability. If the handrail is not circular, it shall have a perimeter dimension between 4" and 6.25", with a maximum cross-section dimension of 2.25". Edges shall have a minimum radius of 0.01". Type 2 handrails and alternate designs shall require City approval prior to manufacture.

Guards: Guards shall be located along open-sided walking surfaces, stairways, ramps and landings that are located more than 30" above the floor or grade below. Guards shall form a protective barrier not less than 42" high. When top of a guard also serves as a handrail on the open side of stairs, guard height shall not be less than 34" nor more than 38".

Enclosures under stairways (CRC R302.7): The walls and soffits under enclosed stairways shall be protected on the enclosed side with 0.5" gypsum board.

