



Uniform Risers And Treads

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

9.8.4.4. Uniformity and Tolerances for Risers and Treads

(1) Except as provided in Sentence (2), risers shall be of uniform height in any one flight with a maximum tolerance of

- (a) 5 mm between adjacent treads or landings, and
- (b) 10 mm between the tallest and shortest risers in a flight.

(2) Except for required exits stairs, where the top or the bottom riser in a stair adjoins a sloping finished walking surface such as a garage floor, driveway or sidewalk, the height of the riser across the stair shall vary by not more than 1 in 12.

(3) Rectangular treads shall have a uniform run with a maximum tolerance of

- (a) 5 mm between adjacent treads, and
- (b) 10 mm between the deepest and shallowest treads in a flight.

(4) Tapered treads in a flight shall have a uniform run in accordance with the construction tolerances stipulated in Sentence (3) when measured at a point 300 mm from the centre line of the handrail as described in Sentence 9.8.7.1.(5).

(5) The slope of treads shall not exceed 1 in 50.

9.8.4.1. Dimensions for Risers (See Note A-9.8.4.)

(1) Except as provided in Article 9.8.4.7., the rise, which is measured as the vertical nosing-to-nosing distance, shall conform to Table 9.8.4.1.

9.8.4.2. Dimensions for Rectangular Treads (See Note A-9.8.4.)

(1) The run for rectangular treads shall conform with Table 9.8.4.1.

(2) The depth of a rectangular tread shall be not less than its run and not more than its run plus 25 mm.



9.8.4.3. Dimensions for Tapered Treads (See Note A-9.8.4.)

- (1) Except as provided in Sentence (2) and Articles 9.8.4.6. and 9.8.4.7., tapered treads shall have a run that
- (a) is not less than 150 mm at the narrow end of the tread, and
 - (b) complies with the dimensions for rectangular treads state in Table 9.8.4.1., when measured at a point 300 mm from the centre line of the handrail at the narrow end of the tread.

OBJECTIVE

Within a dwelling unit the Building Code distinguishes four principal types of stair treads:

- rectangular treads, which are found in straight flights;
- tapered treads found in curved flights;
- winders are described in Appendix Note A-9.8.4.6.; and
- spiral stairs are described in Appendix Note A-9.8.4.7.

The run for rectangular treads shall conform with Table 9.8.4.1. The depth of the rectangular tread shall be not less than its run and not more than its run plus 25 mm. Stair treads in a straight run flight must be of uniform run with a maximum tolerance of 5 mm between adjacent treads and 10 mm between the deepest and shallowest treads in a flight run. The minimum run must be 255 mm with a maximum of 355.

The risers of all stairs in a dwelling unit must be of uniform height in any one flight with a maximum tolerance of 5 mm between adjacent treads or landings and 10 mm between the tallest and shortest risers in a flight. Refer to the illustration for treads and riser tolerances in one flight.

