



Required Guards (Interior Stairs)

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.)

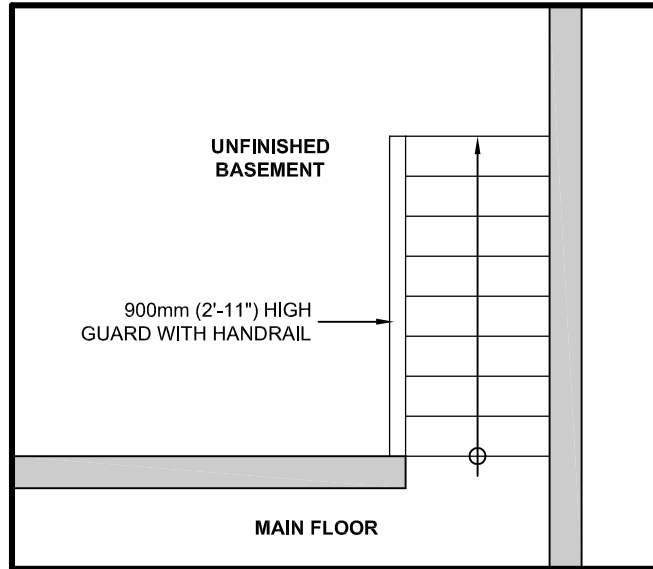
(1) Except as provided in Sentence (2) and except at the leading edge at the top of a flight, every surface to which access is provided including but not limited to flights of steps and ramps, exterior landings, porches, balconies, mezzanines, galleries and raised walkways, shall be protected by a guard on each side that is not protected by a wall for the length where the difference in elevation is more than 600 mm between the walking surface and the adjacent surface within 1.2m.

(2) Guards are not required

- (a) at loading docks,
- (b) at floor pits in repair garages, or
- (c) where access is provided for maintenance purposes only.

OBJECTIVE

Guards prevent persons from falling and injuring themselves. Therefore, all flights of steps, ramps, exterior landings, porches, balconies and mezzanines are required to be protected with guards on each side that are not protected by a wall. Interior stairs leading to unfinished basements also require guards on both sides of the stair. If the stair is protected on one side by a wall, the construction of the wall must meet all requirements for constructing a guard. The other side of the stair must be protected by a guard and meet all requirements for constructing a guard for minimum height, permitted openings, design to prevent climbing, minimum loading design, and safety glass, if glass is provided. The illustrations depict the location of required interior stair guards.



INTERIOR STAIR