

Preventing Falls On Stairs

Many falls and disabling injuries can be avoided through safe design, maintenance and care of stairways. Listed below are some simple steps that should be followed.

1. Clean daily. Eliminate clutter and storage of items that could lead to tripping accidents.
2. Inspect tread surface frequently. Repair or replace loose treads or torn carpet cover on treads and landings.
3. Check handrails. Make certain they are in place and secure.
4. Clear ice and snow. Mop up water tracked onto stairs during inclement weather.
5. Maintain uniform lighting in all stairwells.

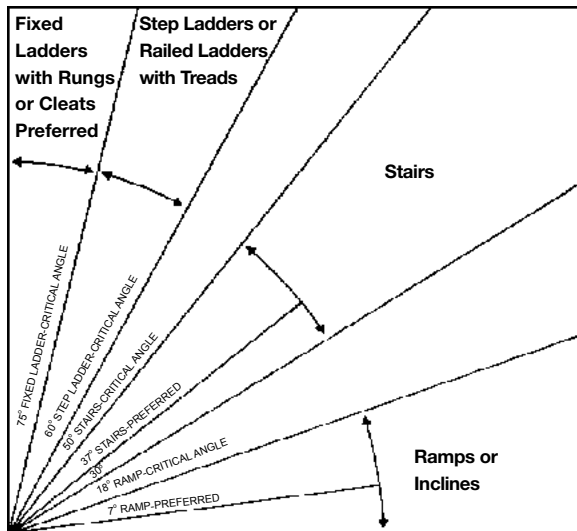
Contact your local Great American Insurance Company Loss Prevention Department for additional guidance.

The hand rail should be constructed of sturdy material and properly supported.

Handrails

At least one hand rail is required on all stairways. The hand rail should be constructed of sturdy material properly supported and capable of withstanding a lateral force of at least 200 pounds. On stairways wider than 44 inches, or on open stairways, hand rails are required on both sides. When the stairway width exceeds 88 inches, a center hand rail should be provided.

Safe Angles for Ladders, Stairs and Ramps



Runs and Risers for Stairs

(Run + Riser = 17-1/2")

Angle with Horizontal Inches	Riser Inches	Run
30°-35'	6-1/2	11
32°-08'	6-3/4	10-3/4
33°-41'	7	10-1/2
35°-16'	7-1/4	10-1/2
36°-52'	7-1/2	10
38°-29'	7-3/4	9-3/4
40°-08'	8	9-1/2
41°-44'	8-1/4	9-1/4
43°-22'	8-1/2	9
45°-00'	8-3/4	8-3/4
46°-38'	9	8-1/2
48°-16'	9-1/4	8-1/4
49°-54'	9-1/2	8

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