

# Stair & Railing Cheat Sheet

## STAIRS (IRC TYPICAL)

Element	Limit
Riser height	7-3/4" max
Tread depth	10" min
Riser consistency	3/8" max
Headroom	6' 8" min
Stair width	36" min

## QUICK MATH

- Risers = total rise / 7.5, rounded.
- Riser height = total rise / number of risers.
- Stringer length =  $\sqrt{\text{rise}^2 + \text{run}^2}$ .

## RAILINGS & GUARDS

Element	Spec
Handrail height	34-38"
Guard height	36" min
Baluster gap	< 4"
Grip diameter	1-1/4 to 2"

## BALUSTER SPACING

- Gap must reject a 4" sphere.
- Even gap =  $(\text{rail length} - n \times \text{baluster}) / (n + 1)$ .
- Add balusters until every gap is under 4".

Guard heights and stair geometry vary by occupancy and local code — always confirm before building.