



Guards and Window Fall Protection

Residential Requirements

- Guard rails must be built to resist a single concentrated load of 200 pounds applied in any direction applied along the top (R301.5).
- Provide safety glazing in guards and railings, including structural baluster panels and nonstructural in-fill panels, regardless of area or height above a walking surface. (R308.4.4).
- Guards shall be located along the open sides of floors, stairs, ramps, and landings that are located more than 30" measured vertically to the floor or grade below. Insect screening shall not be considered as a guard (R312.1.4).
- Required guards at open-sided walking surfaces, including stairs, porches, balconies or landings, shall be not less than 36" high measured vertically above the adjacent walking surface, adjacent fixed seating or the line connecting the leading edges of the treads (R312.1.2).
 - Exception: Guards on the open sides of stairs shall have a height not less than 34" measured vertically from a line connecting the leading edges of the treads.
- Required guards shall not have openings from the walking surface to the required guard height which allow passage of a sphere 4" in diameter (R312.1.3).
 - Exception: The triangular openings at the open side of stair, formed by the riser, tread and bottom rail of a guard, shall not allow passage of a sphere 6" in diameter.
- Window fall protection shall be provided where the lowest part of a window opening is more than 6' above grade or the surface below and the lowest part of the window opening is 36" or less above the finished floor in the room where the window is located. Operable sections of the window shall not open more than 4" (R312.2.1).

Call the City of Mendota Heights' Department of Building Safety at 651 452 1850 if you have questions, to request a permit or to schedule an inspection (8:00-4:30 M-F).