

# Dwelling Handrails

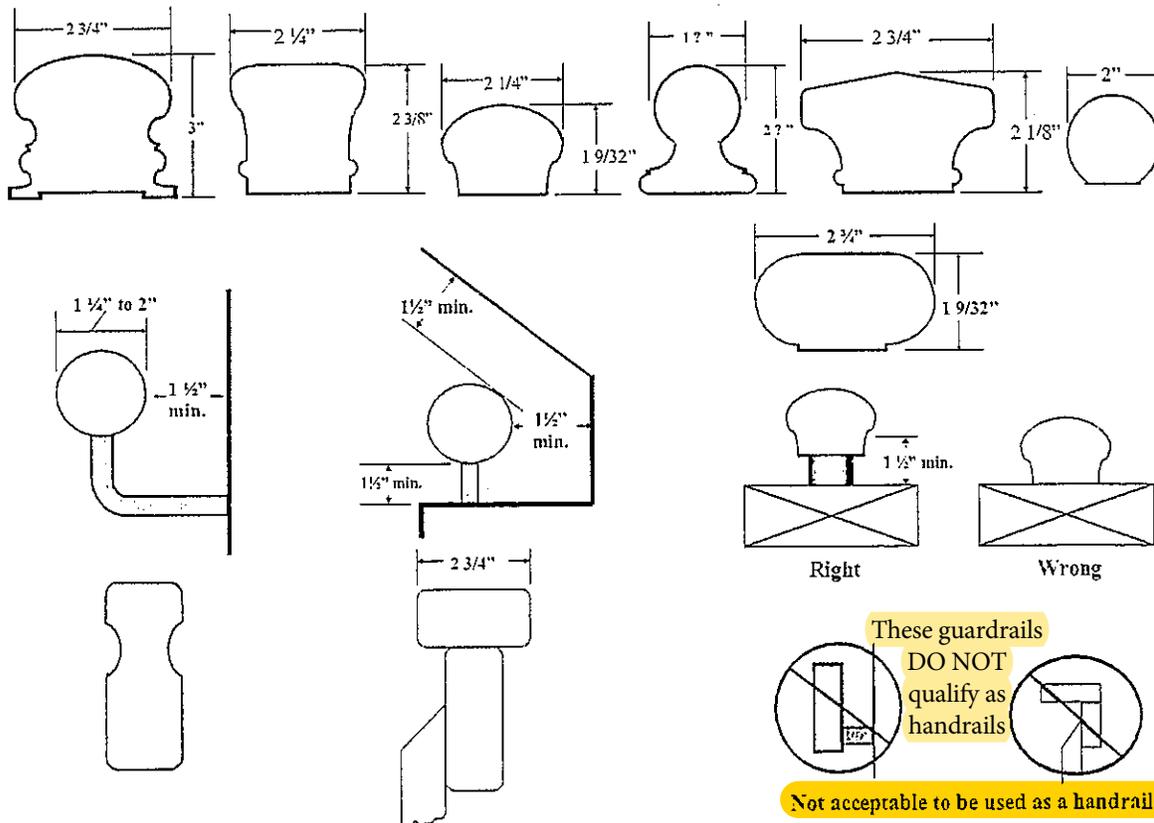
**R311.7.7 Handrails.** Handrails having minimum and maximum heights of 30 inches and 38 inches respectively, measured vertically from the nosing of the treads, shall be provided on at least one side of stairways of more than three risers. Spiral stairways shall have the required handrail located on the outside radius. All required handrails shall be continuous the full length of the stairs. Ends shall be returned or shall terminate in newel posts or safety terminals. Handrails adjacent to a wall shall have a space of not less than 1½ inches between the wall and the handrail.

**Exceptions:**

1. Handrails shall be permitted to be interrupted by a newel post at a turn.
2. The use of a volute, turnout or starting easing shall be allowed over the lowest tread.

**R311.7.7.3 Handrail grip size.** All required handrails shall be of the following types or provide equivalent graspability.

1. **Type 1.** Handrails with a circular cross section shall have an outside diameter of at least 1¼ inches and not greater than 2 inches. If the handrail is not circular it shall have a perimeter dimension of at least 4 inches and not greater than 6¼ inches with a maximum cross section of dimension of 2¼ inches.
2. **Type 2.** Handrails with a perimeter greater than 6¼ inches shall provide a graspable finger recess area on both sides of the profile. The finger recess shall begin with in a distance of ¾ inch measured vertically from the tallest portion of the profile and achieve a depth of at least 5/16-inch within 7/8 inch below the widest portion of the profile. This required depth shall continue for at least ¾ inch to a level that is not less than 1¾ inches below the tallest portion of the profile. The minimum width of the handrail above the recess shall be 1¼ inches to a maximum of 2¾ inches. Edges shall have a minimum radius of 0.001 inches.



Other shapes may be acceptable if they provide an equivalent gripping surface. Do not use these shapes to make your handrails and expect that the handrail will automatically pass inspection, check with Building Inspector to see if the shape you want to make will work.