



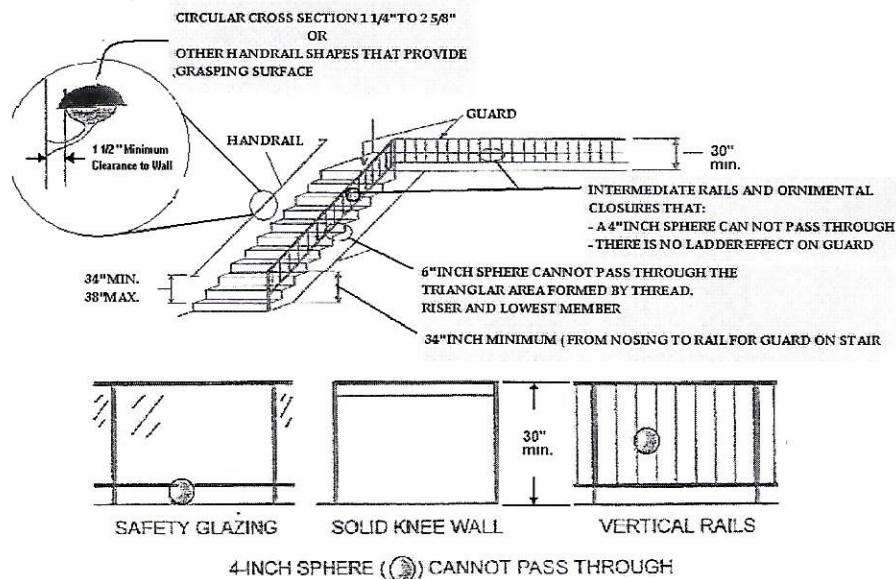
# City of St. John

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## GUARDS and HANDRAILS

Municipal Code Section 505.010.D. - indicates that all handrails and guards must be constructed with the same materials. *NO guardrails may be constructed with PVC piping.*

A **guard** is a building component or system of building components located near the open sides of elevated walking surfaces that minimizes the possibility of a fall from the walking surface. *Guards are to be a minimum of thirty (30) inches in height* measured vertically above the tread nose (leading edge of steps) or walking surface. Open guards are to have balusters or be of solid material such that a sphere 4 inches in diameter cannot pass through any opening. The triangular openings formed by the riser, tread and bottom rail of the guard are to be such that a sphere of 6 inches in diameter cannot pass through. The guard is not to have any horizontal rail or ornamental pattern that results in a ladder effect. *A guard is to be secure and able to withstand a 200 lb. load applied horizontally.*

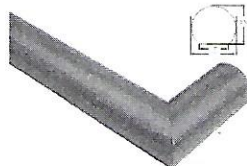


**INSTALLATION OF GUARDS AND HANDRAILS REQUIRES A PERMIT THROUGH CITY HALL.**

A **handrail** is a horizontal or sloping rail intended for grasping by the hand for guidance or support. A minimum of one handrail is required on all stairs with four (4) or more risers. *The height of the handrail is to be 34 - 38 inches (36 ± 2") measured vertically above the tread nose or leading edge of the steps.* A handrail integral with a guard is to be a minimum of thirty six (36) inches. The handrail is to be easily graspable and withstand a 200 lb. load applied vertically. If the handrail is circular in cross-section it is to be not less than 1.25" or greater than 2" or shall provide equivalent grasp ability.

**ALL GUARDS AND HANDRAILS - MUST BE CONSTRUCTED OF LIKE MATERIALS.**

**ALL NEW HANDRAIL INSTALLATION IS REQUIRED TO HAVE A 45 DEGREE ANGLE TO MOUNT OR WALL.**



EXAMPLE