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# EMERGENCY ESCAPE & RESCUE OPENING

## 2009 INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE, SECTION R310

- ✓ Basements, habitable attics, and every sleeping room shall have at least one openable emergency escape and rescue window or door opening to the exterior.
- ✓ Emergency escape openings shall be operational from the inside without the use of any tool or special knowledge.
- ✓ The opening shall have a sill height no more than 44 inches above the finished floor.
- ✓ The net clear opening dimensions required by this section shall be obtained by the normal operation of the window or door as measured from the inside.
- ✓ Bars, grills, covers, screens etc. are allowed to be placed over the openings or window wells provided the minimum net clear opening size is maintained and the device is removable without the use of tools or special knowledge.
- ✓ The force to open such devices shall not require a force greater than that required for normal operation of the emergency escape opening.

### Emergency Escape & Rescue Window

Emergency Escape And Rescue Windows must meet the following criteria:

- A minimum total openable area of not less than 5.7 square feet
- A minimum clear openable height of not less than 24 inches
- A minimum clear openable width of not less than 20 inches.
- A finished sill height of not more than 44 inches above the floor and should be openable from the inside with normal operation and without the use of tools, keys or effort.

**Examples of Complying Height & Width Combinations**

### Emergency Escape & Rescue Window Well

Emergency Escape And Rescue window wells must provide a minimum area of 9 square feet with a minimum dimension of 36 inches and shall enable the window to open fully. If the depth of the window well exceeds 44 inches, a permanently affixed ladder must be provided. The ladder must not interfere with the operation of the window.

WINDOWS - EMERGENCY ESCAPE & RESCUE OPENING