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## IRC Code Section R311.5.6: Handrails for Stairs 2009 IRC

**IRC Section R311.7.7 Handrails.** Handrails shall be provided on at least one side of each continuous run of treads or flight with four or more risers.

**R.311.7.7 Handrail Grip Size.** The handgrip portions of handrails shall have a circular cross section of 1 1/4 inches (32 mm) minimum to 2 inches (51 mm) maximum. Other handrail shapes that provide an equivalent grasping surface are permissible per IRC R311.7.7.3(1)(2).

### Section R311: Handrails

**R.311.7.7.1 Handrails.** Handrails having minimum and maximum height of 34 inches and 38 inches (364 mm and 965 mm), respectively, measured vertically from the nosing of the treads shall be provided on at least one side of stairways.

**R311.7.7.2 Continuity.** All required handrails shall be continuous the full length of the stairs with four or more risers from a point directly above the lowest riser of the flight. 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 1 1/2 inches (38 mm) 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 or starting newel shall be allowed over the lowest tread.

