



KOOTENAI COUNTY BUILDING & PLANNING DEPARTMENT

RESIDENTIAL STAIRS

The International Residential Code does not contain definitions of “Stair”, “Stairway”, or “Ramp”. The purpose of this policy is to provide a clear definition of these elements which are required to comply with provisions of IRC Sections R311.5 and R312 for projects within the scope of and designed for compliance with the International Residential Code.

APPLICATION:

All elements of the most direct path-of-travel providing access or egress from (a) site parking or arrival point to the main entrance of a permitted structure or between permitted structures located on the same lot; (b) any portion of a permitted structure extending from that structure to and including the first grade-level landing; or (c) providing an interior or exterior path of travel between levels of a permitted structure.

DEFINITIONS:

STAIR: A change of elevation consisting of one or more vertical risers.

STAIRWAY: One or more flights of stairs, either exterior or interior, with the necessary landings and platforms connecting them, to form a continuous and uninterrupted passage from one level to another.

RAMP: A walkway with a slope greater than 1 vertical to 15 horizontal.

All stairs, stairways, and ramps within the scope of application of this policy must comply with the applicable portions of IRC Sections R311.5 and R312 except as modified by other policies.