



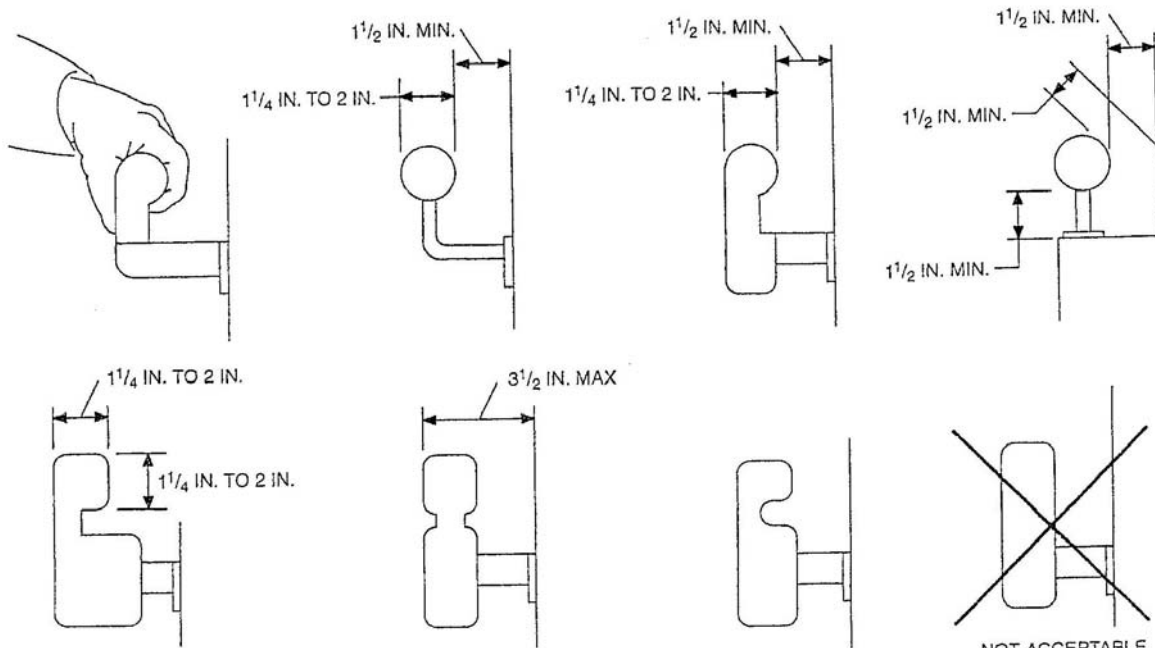
Community Development Department
11 English Street
Petaluma, CA 94952
<http://cityofpetaluma.org>

Building Division
 Phone: (707) 778-4301
 To schedule inspections: (707) 778-4479
 Email: cdd@cityofpetaluma.org

Residential Stairs and Handrail Information

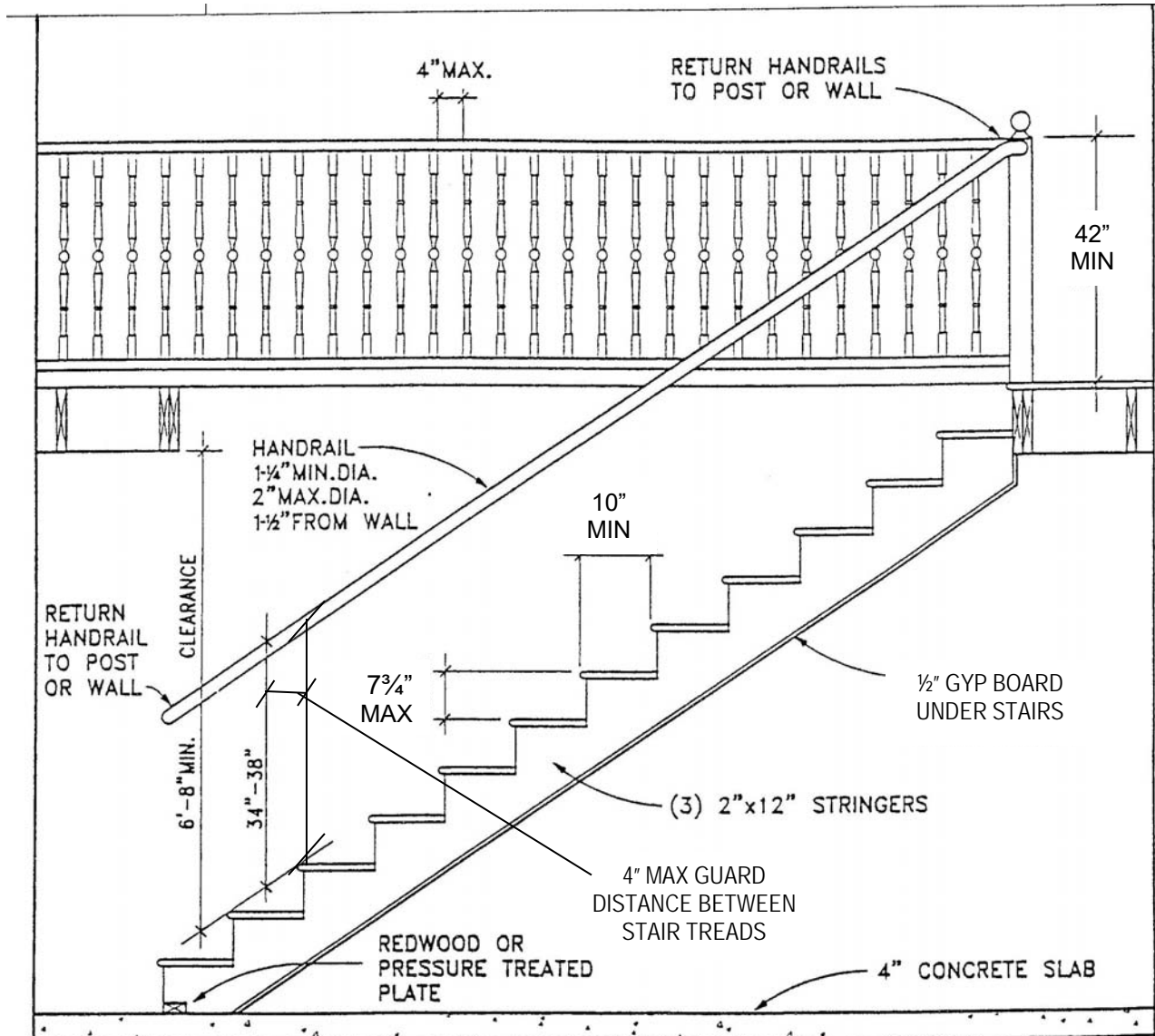
The following information is based on the 2019 California Residential Code. For complete residential stair and handrail information please refer to the above-mentioned Code Section R311.7.8. Note that all stairs regardless of the number of risers must be built to comply with the current Codes.

ACCEPTABLE SHAPES AND INSTALLATIONS



NOTE: Other shapes may be acceptable if they provide an equivalent gripping surface.
 See third paragraph of Section 1003.3.3.6.

- Handrail ends shall be returned or shall terminate in newel posts or safety terminals.
- The mounting of handrails shall be such that the completed handrail and supporting structure are capable of withstanding a load of at least 200 pounds applied in any direction at any point on the rail.
- The rise and run of steps shall be uniform in size and shape and that the greatest variation cannot exceed 3/8 inch.
- Handrails shall be continuous the full length of the stairs.
- All stairs having four or more risers are required to have handrails and guardrails that comply with current code. See the California Residential Code Sections R311.7.8 and R312.



All stairs having four or more risers are required to have handrails and guardrails that comply with the current code. See the 2019 California Residential Code Sections R311.7.8 and R312.

The minimum width of all stairways shall not be less than 36 inches. The minimum dimension of all landings shall be 36 inches.

All landings, decks and balconies require a building permit, and any that are more than 30 inches above grade require guardrails that comply with current code.

TYPICAL STAIR AND HANDRAIL DETAIL