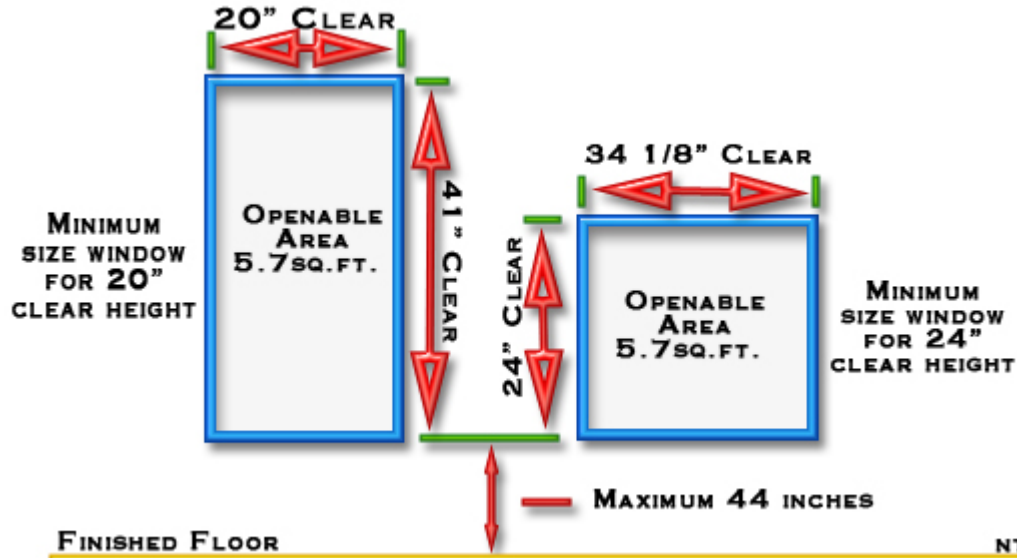


## Code Corner

### Emergency Escape and Rescue Windows

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Because so many fire-related casualties occur when occupants of residential buildings are asleep at the time of the fire, Section 310.4 of the 1997 *Uniform Building Code™* requires that:

- Basements of dwelling Units and every bedroom below the fourth story shall have at least one operable window or door approved for emergency escape and rescue. This exit shall open directly into a public street, public alley, yard or exit court. The units shall be operable to provide a *full clear opening* without the use of separate tools.

Extensive testing by the San Diego Building and Fire Departments established the minimum window size requirements found in Section 310.4:

- The net clear opening shall be no less than 5.7 square feet (0.53m<sup>2</sup>).
- In addition to the above requirement, the net clear operable height dimension shall be a minimum of 24 inches (610 mm). The net clear operable width dimension shall be a minimum of 20 inches (508 mm). Note that using both minimum figures will not obtain the required area.
- The finished sill height shall be not more than 44 inches (1118 mm) above the floor.

#### Minimum Width/Height Requirements for Emergency Escape and Rescue Windows (inches\*)

\*1inch = 25.4 mm

Width	20	20.5	21.5	21.5	22	22.5	23	23.5	24	24.5	25	25.5	26	26.5	27
Height	41	40	39.1	38.2	37.3	36.5	35.7	34.9	34.2	33.5	32.8	32.2	31.6	31	30.4

Width	27.5	28	28.5	29	29.5	30	30.5	31	31.5	32	32.5	33	33.5	34	34.2
Height	29.8	29.3	28.8	28.3	27.8	27.4	26.9	26.5	26.4	25.7	25.3	24.9	24.5	24.1	24

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