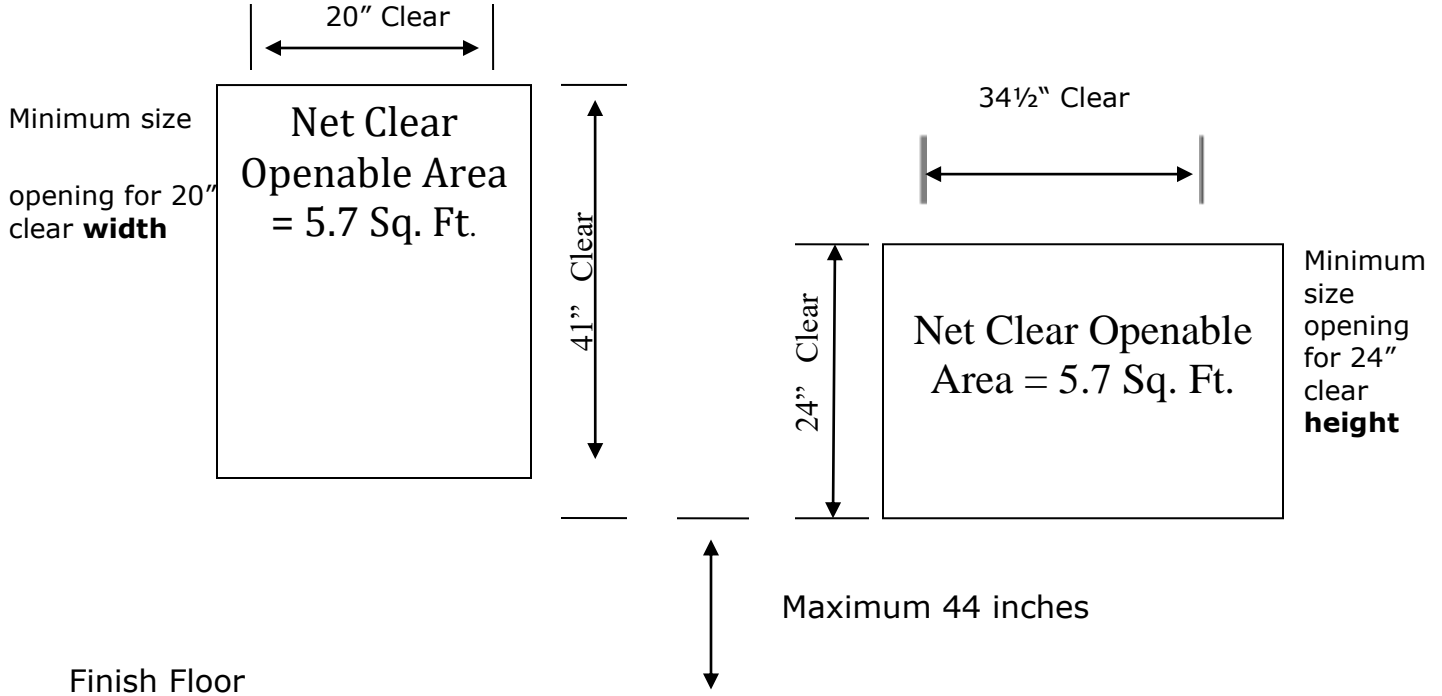




Building Handout

Emergency Escape and Rescue Openings



Basements and every sleeping room shall have at least one operable emergency escape & rescue opening. All of the following shall apply to all emergency escape and rescue openings:

- Sill height:** the sill height shall not be more than **44 inches** above the floor.
- Minimum opening area.** The minimum net clear opening shall be **5.7 square feet**. * Exception: *Grade* floors or below *grade* openings shall have a net clear opening area of not less than 5 square feet (R310.2.1)
- Minimum opening height.** The minimum net clear opening height shall be **24 inches**. *
- Minimum opening width.** The minimum net clear opening width shall be **20 inches**. *
- Operation.** The net clear opening dimensions shall be obtained by **normal operation** from the inside. Openings shall also be operational from inside without the use of keys, tools or special knowledge.
- Direct to outside:** Must open directly to a yard or court. * Exception: if under a deck, provide a clearance of not less than 36 inches in height to a yard or court.
- Window Well:** A finished sill height below the adjacent ground elevation requires a window well. *Note that using both minimum width and minimum height dimensions will not provide the minimum required area. See the chart below for combinations of dimensions to achieve 5.7 square feet.

*Bedroom window egress: minimum height & width for 5.7 sq. ft. opening in size (in inches; for sq ft. /by 144)

Width	20	20.5	21	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	34.5
Height	29.8	29.3	28.8	28.3	27.8	27.4	26.9	26.5	26.1	25.7	25.3	24.9	24.5	24.1	24