



Community
Development



Emergency Escape & Rescue Windows

FIRE SAFETY

The Kitsap County Building & Fire Code requires that all sleeping rooms and basements have at least one operable door or window to allow occupants to escape and allow rescue personnel wearing full gear to enter the building for rescue and firefighting.

WINDOW REQUIREMENTS

Escape windows need to open directly to a public street, alley, yard, or court. If the window opens to an interior court, there must be a passage in the court that leads to a public way.

See [next page](#) for opening dimensions and placement requirements.

You can install bars, grates, or grilles on escape windows if they have an approved release mechanism. This mechanism should be easily opened from the inside without needing a key, special knowledge, or more force than what's typically needed to operate the escape and rescue opening.

WINDOW WELLS

Escape windows don't need to have an escape route down to ground level. However, if an escape window is below the surrounding ground level, it must have a window well.

Window wells with a vertical depth of more than 44" must be equipped with a permanent ladder that is usable with the window in the fully open position. Ladder rungs shall have an inside width of at least 12", shall project at least 3" from the wall, and shall be spaced not more than 18" on center for the full height of the window well.

NOTE: Please refer to section R310 of the Washington State amended International Residential Code (IRC) for additional requirements.

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DIMENSIONS

