



Excellence through Service

Winston-Salem/Forsyth County
Inspections Division
100 E. First Street, Suite 328
Winston-Salem, NC 27101

If you have any questions please call the appropriate number listed below:

Building Inspections: 462-7485
Electrical Inspections: 462-7509
Mechanical Inspections: 462-7501
Plumbing Inspections: 462-7147
Chief Building Inspector: 727-2084

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Robert C. Clark, West Ward
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Jeff MacIntosh, Northwest Ward
Derwin L. Montgomery, East Ward
James Taylor, Jr., Southeast Ward

City Manager: Lee Garrity



Call 311 or 336-727-8000
citylink@cityofus.org

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Safe Access Guidelines



Winston-Salem/Forsyth County
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Bryce A. Stuart Municipal Building
Suite 328
100 E. First Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
P.O. Box 2511
Winston-Salem, NC 27102-2511

Phone: (336) 727-2624
Fax: (336) 727-2792

Safe Access Guidelines

(Revised 11/2015)

For New Construction and Remodeled Areas

The City of Winston-Salem's Inspection Department is concerned about the safety of its inspectors in the performance of their duties. In order to eliminate their exposure to unsafe conditions, we are requesting your cooperation in providing safe means to access job sites. As the contractor or owner, you have direct control over the condition of your job site and your assistance is necessary to expedite the inspection process. Listed below are safety guidelines provided by the City of Winston-Salem. These guidelines are designed to protect all individuals at the job site. This list contains hazards that are commonly found at job sites and additional safety measures which may be necessary to eliminate hazards that might directly affect the safety of inspectors. We support our inspectors and our customers in job safety.

1. A clear path must be provided inside and outside the building to allow inspectors access to areas and equipment which require inspection. Passageways must be kept clear of debris and materials.

- OSHA 1926.25 & .34

2. If a stair run has four or more risers a handrail will be required on the open side or sides. The handrail must be 36" high. Stairs with exposed 2" x 4" stud framing will not require rails on the side or sides with exposed stud framing.

3. Temporary stair treads must be 3/4" flooring (plywood or Advantech) and extend the full width and depth of the tread. If solid 1 1/2" material is used; it shall have a gap of no more than 1 1/4".

-OSHA 1926.1052(b)(3)

4. Raised platforms, balconies, stairs or working/walking surface with an open side four feet or more above the adjacent surface below must have a 42-inch high guardrail on each open side. Guardrails must consist of a top-rail and a mid-rail, screen, mesh, vertical members or equivalent structural members.

-OSHA 1926.501(b)

5. Walk-boards over open stoops (when used as an entry point) must be of substantial solid materials and be so constructed to support expected loads and must not fall due to deflection or movement. They must be secured by nails or other means to prevent movement or displacement. Walk-boards must meet the following requirements:

- 22-inches wide; and
- Provided with guardrails on each side when the height above the bottom of the stoop is four feet or more.

6. Ramps used to gain access to elevated surfaces must be constructed of structural members totaling 22" minimum in width. The structural members must be uniform thickness and substantial enough to handle anticipated loads. Cleats must be provided to prevent slipping. Ramps must be sloped so that a person may walk up or down in an upright manner. The slope may not exceed a 5/12 - 40° pitch. A guardrail system must be provided on each open side four feet or more above the adjacent surface below.

7. Ladders must meet ANSI Standards, be in good repair, and be rated for a minimum of 300 pounds, or each step or rung be able to support a single concentrated load of 250 pounds. Ladders must have nonconductive side rails when used near exposed energized electrical equipment.

-OSHA 1926.1053

- Straight or extension ladders used to access a landing surface must extend a minimum of three feet above the landing surface. The ladder must be placed on a level surface or secured to prevent accidental displacement.

- When a step ladder must be used to gain access to an attic, the top of the ladder must be no more than one foot below the ceiling or joists.

8. Scaffolding must meet OSHA standards and be properly installed.

-OSHA 1926.451

9. Pull down and disappearing stairs must be in good repair, properly installed according to the manufacturer's installation instructions, secured and in safe working order.

10. Crawlspace must be clear of debris and unsafe conditions that may cause injury. In pre-existing construction if the doorway or clearance between joists and earth is less than 18-inches, the inspector may request the presence of a contractor representative or homeowner during the inspection.