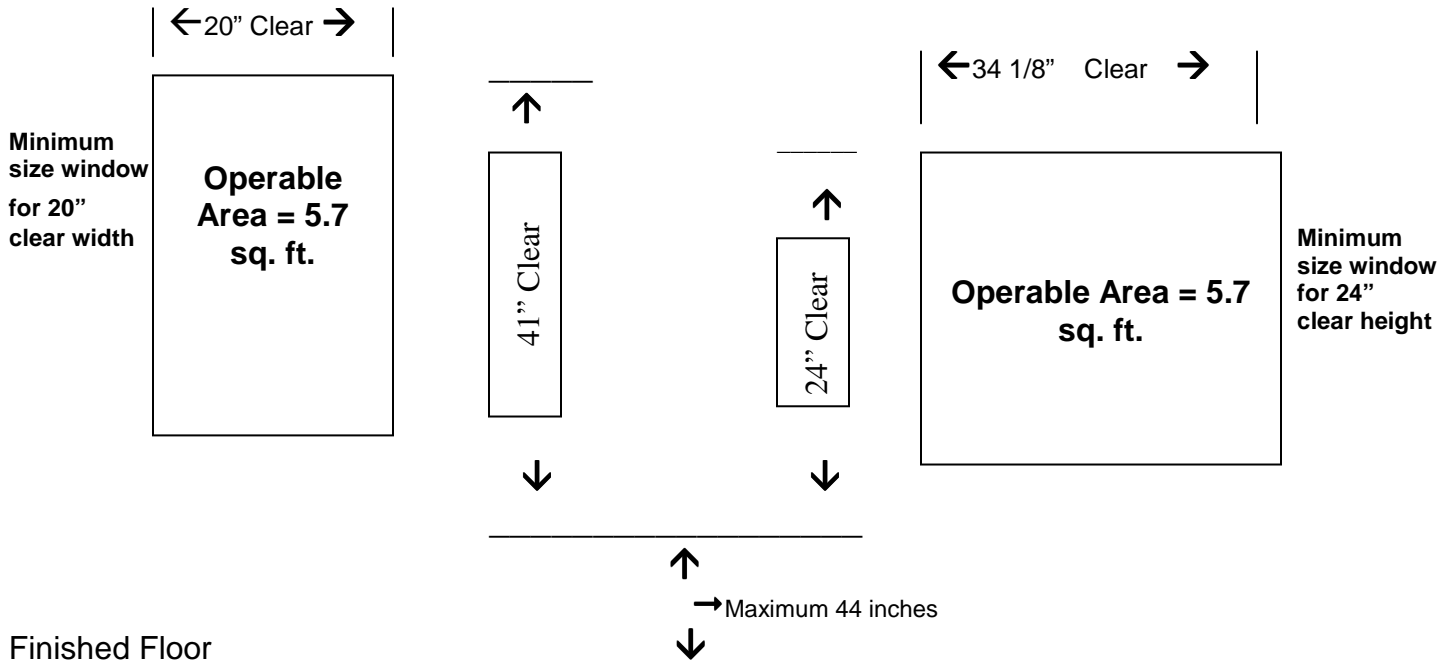




**SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

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## EMERGENCY ESCAPE AND RESCUE WINDOWS 2007 CALIFORNIA BUILDING CODE SECTION 1026



Because so many fire deaths occur when occupants of residential buildings are asleep at the time of a fire, the CBC requires that:

- Basements in dwelling units; EXCEPT: less than 200 sq.ft. w/o habitable space or ceiling height <80"
- every sleeping room 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 from the inside to provide a full clear opening without the use of separate tools.

Extensive testing by the Building and Fire Departments established the following minimum size window requirements found in Section 1026 CBC

- The net clear operable area shall be no less than 5.7 square feet.
- In addition to the above requirement, the net clear operable height dimension shall be a minimum of 24 inches. The net clear operable width dimension shall be a minimum of 20 inches. (Note: Using both minimum figures will NOT obtain the required 5.7 square feet.)
- The bottom of the clear opening shall not be more than 44 inches above the floor.
- Exception: 5.0 sq. ft. openings at grade level floor.
- See Section 1026.4 for bars, grilles & operation constraints.

Minimum Width/Height Requirements for Emergency Escape and Rescue Windows

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	34.2
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