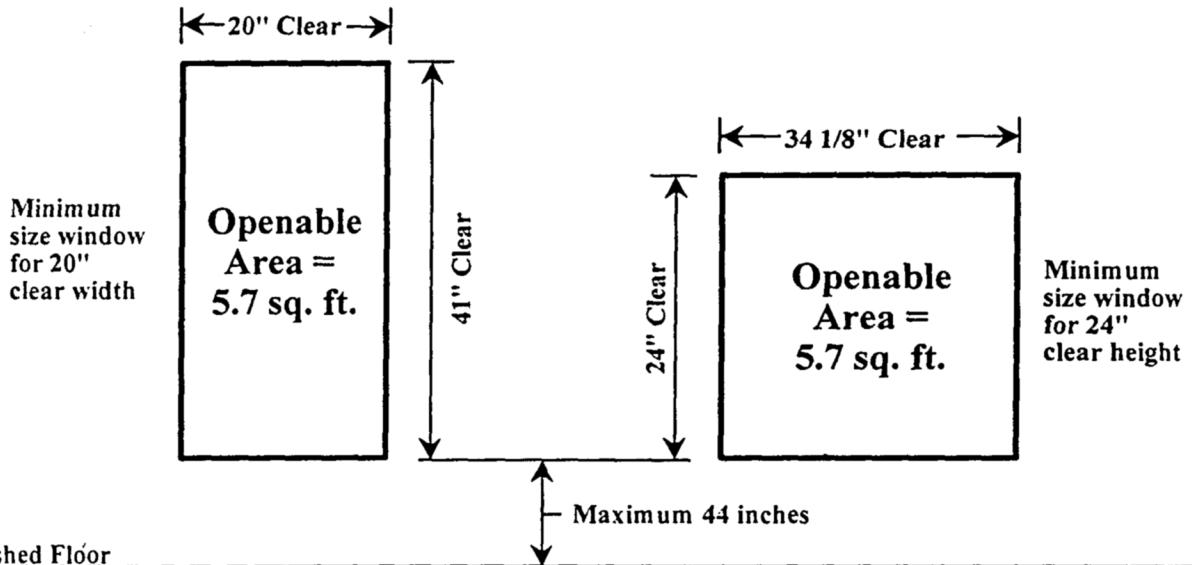


# Emergency Escape and Rescue Windows

## 1997 Uniform Building Code Section 310.4



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

- basements in dwelling units; and,
- 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 minimum size window requirements found in section 310.4:

- The net clear openable area shall be no less than 5.7 square feet.
- In addition to the above requirement, the net clear openable height dimension shall be a minimum of 24 inches. The net clear openable width dimension shall be a minimum of 20 inches. (Note: Using both minimum figures will NOT obtain the required 5.7 square feet).
- The finished sill height shall not be more than 44 inches above the floor.

**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