**Building Material:** Naturally durable or pressure-treated wood shall be used for those portions of wood members which form the structural supports of buildings, balconies, porches, or similar permanent building structures when such members are exposed to the weather without adequate protection from a roof, eave, overhang or other covering which would prevent moisture or water accumulation on the surface or at joints between members.

**Guardrails:** Porches, balconies or raised floor surfaces located more than 30 inches above the floor or grade below shall have guardrails not less than 36 inches in height. Open sides of stairs with a total rise of more than 30 inches above the floor or grade below shall have guardrails not less than 34 inches in height measured vertically from the nosing of the treads.

**Guardrail opening limitations:** Required guardrails on open sides of raised floor areas, balconies and porches shall have intermediate rails or ornamental closures which do not allow passage of an object 4 inches or more in diameter. Horizontal spacing between the vertical members in required guardrails shall be a maximum of 4 inches at the nearest point between the members.

**Exception:**
1. The triangular openings formed by the riser, tread and bottom rail of a guard at the open side of a stairway may be of such a size that a sphere 6 inches in diameter cannot pass through.
2. Required guardrails on open sides of stairways shall have intermediate rails or ornamental closures which do not allow passage of an object 5 inches or more in diameter. Opening limitations for required guardrails on open sides of stairways are applicable above the second riser of the stair.

See handout page for Handrails and stairs.