



Installations of Stairs on Ceramic or Marble Flooring

The Building Standards Department issues Builder Tips as part of our customer service program. They are designed to provide an improved understanding of the Building Code and to reduce the costs associated with correcting infractions. Please contact your area building inspector for further information or call the Building Standards Department at 905.475.4848 extension 2189

9.8.4.4. Uniformity and Tolerances for Risers, Runs and Treads

(1) Except as provided in Sentence (2), risers shall be of uniform height in any one flight with a maximum tolerance of,

- (a) 5 mm (3/16 in) between adjacent treads or landings, and
- (b) 10 mm (3/8 in) between the tallest and shortest risers in a flight.

(2) Except for required exit stairs, where the top or bottom riser in a stair adjoins a sloping finished walking surface such as a garage floor, driveway or sidewalk, the height of the riser across the stair shall vary by not more than 1 in 12.

(3) Rectangular treads shall have a uniform run with a maximum tolerance of

- (a) 5 mm (3/16 in) between adjacent treads, and
- (b) 10 mm (3/8 in) between the deepest and shallowest treads in a flight.

(4) Tapered treads in a flight shall have a uniform run in accordance with the construction tolerances stipulated in Sentence (3) when measured at a point 300 mm from the centre line of the handrail as described in Sentence 9.8.7.1.(5).

(5) The slope of treads shall not exceed 1 in 50.

9.8.4.1. Dimensions for Risers (See Note A-9.8.4.)

(1) Except as provided in Article 9.8.4.7., the rise, which is measured as the vertical nosing-to-nosing distance, shall conform to Table 9.8.4.1.



OBJECTIVE

In today's homes it has become common practice to install ceramic, porcelain or marble flooring in vestibules, hallways and kitchens. When installing stairs in areas with ceramic, porcelain or marble flooring, provisions must be taken to satisfy the requirements of the Building Code for uniform rise and run. The first riser of stairs becomes critical in these installations. Proper detailing will ensure equal riser dimensions. Good construction practices are to oversize the first riser or provide suitable shimming under the stairs to allow for the total thickness of the ceramic, porcelain or marble flooring installation. The detail below illustrates the most common method to level stairs adjacent to ceramic tile flooring. Refer also to the Builder Tip No. 54 for tolerances in any one flight.

