

# Elevated Exterior Stairways

## What are Elevated Exterior Stairways?

An enclosure is placed around a building entrance, raised above the high water level, and sealed tightly against the existing building exterior wall. Stairs allow pedestrian access up and over the raised enclosure.

This technique can also be used to protect existing stairways leading to depressed doorways below the surrounding grades by extending the stairs up and over the raised enclosure.

Creating a raised enclosure with additional steps up and over the enclosure can prevent floodwater from reaching the flood vulnerable building entrance.

## Where can they be installed?

This technique is best suited to protect existing stairways leading to below-grade entrances that are vulnerable to flooding.

## What else should you know about installing Elevated Exterior Stairways?

This technique cannot be used for entrances that must meet accessibility standards.

Any new stairways or alterations to existing stairways must comply with the Ontario Building Code.

Exterior space must be available for the enclosure and new or expanded stairs.

This technique is only effective if all openings into the building (doors, windows) are above the predicted high water level and/or protected by other techniques.

The enclosure and exterior walls must be structurally sound and be able to withstand the force of water at the high water level.

## Cost Range

Costs vary significantly based on the size and height of the enclosure but can be expected to cost several thousand dollars.

## What type of protection do they provide?

Elevated Exterior Stairways provide Passive Dry Protection.



**Elevated set of stairs to a below-grade entrance** (*sourceMarkham.ca*)