

Emergency Escape and Rescue Windows

CNI-020

Basements of 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 emergency door or window shall be operable from the inside to provide a full clear opening without the use of separate tools.

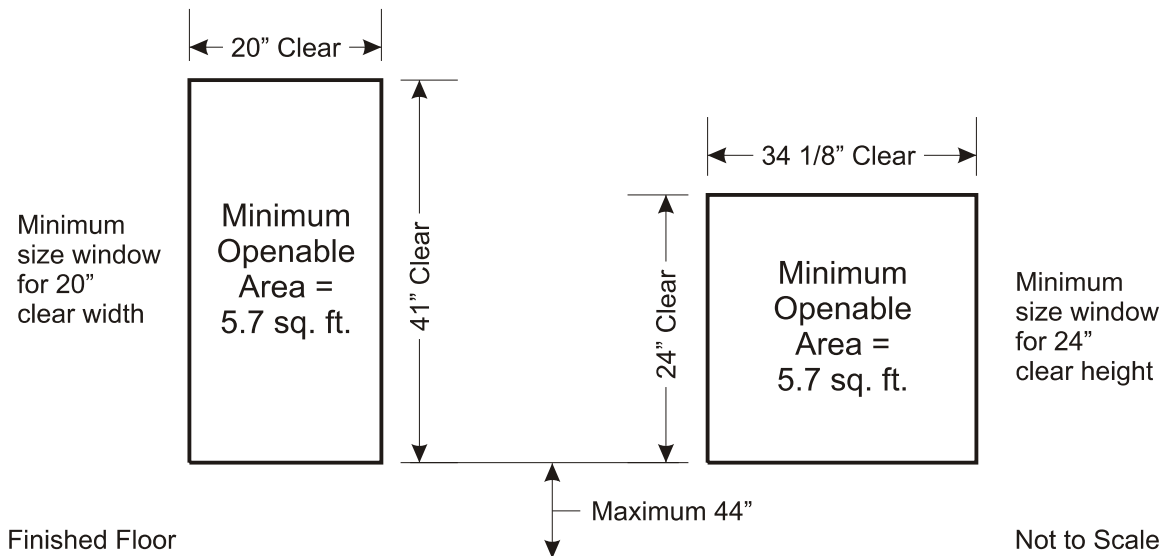
Section 1026 of the 2007 California Building Code regulates emergency escape and rescue windows in residential buildings. The following shall apply when permits are issued for new residential buildings and for replacement of existing windows in residential buildings.

Minimum window size requirements:

1. The net clear opening shall be no less than 5.7 square feet (5.0 square feet when at grade-floor).
2. The net clear openable height dimension shall be no less than 24 inches.*
3. The net clear openable width dimension shall be a minimum of 20 inches.*
4. The finished sill height shall be not more than 44 inches above the floor.

*Note: Using both minimum figures will not obtain the required minimum openable area.

The Figure below depicts the dimensional requirements for minimum openable areas (5.7 square feet) at bedrooms.



The following chart provides minimum width/height requirements that will achieve the required minimum openable area of 5.7 square feet.

Width	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
Height	41	39.5	37.5	35.5	34.5	33	31	30.5	29.5	28.5	27.5	26.5	25.5	25	24

The following chart provides minimum width/height requirements that will achieve the required minimum openable area of 5.0 square feet.

Width	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Height	36	34.5	33	31.5	30	29	28	27	26	25	24

Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department

2550 Ventura Avenue ❖ Santa Rosa, CA ❖ 95403-2829 ❖ (707) 565-1900 ❖ Fax (707) 565-2210