

Family Day Care

Fire Marshal Inspection

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/firemarshal

Family Day Care

3 Main Topics Covered

- Pre-inspection
- Inspection
- After the inspection

Pre-inspection

What is a “day care”?

- Fire Marshal has three definitions
 - Family Day Care
 - Group Day Care/Small Center
 - Child Care Center

Pre-inspection

What is a family day care?

- Family Day Care
 - One provider for 1-8 children
 - No more than 4 children under the age of two
 - If there 3 or 4 children under two, then a second provider must be present
 - Provider's own children count towards the total

Pre-inspection

Two other types of day care...

- Group Day Care/Small Center
 - Between 9-12 children
 - No more than 4 under the age of two
- Child Care Center
 - More than 12 children

Pre-Inspection

How do I schedule...?

- Depends on where you live
- 3 Fire Marshal Offices
 - Montgomery County
 - Gaithersburg City
 - Rockville City

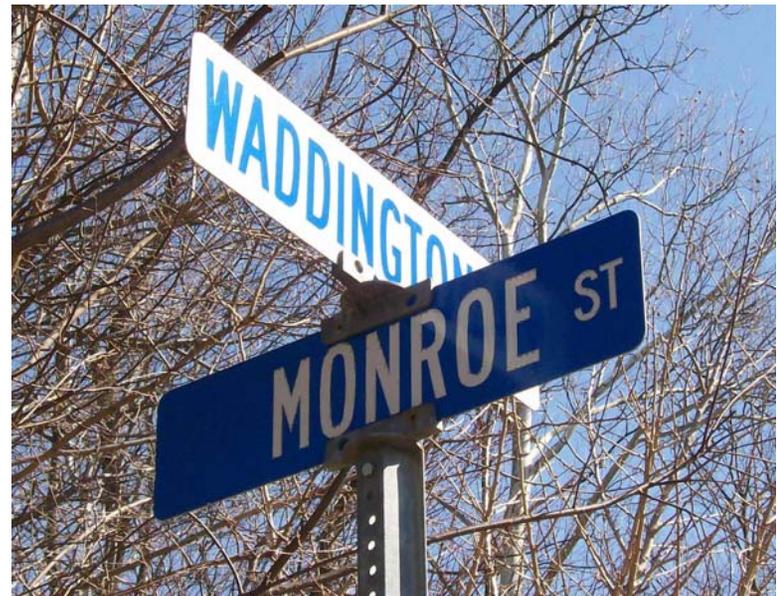
Pre-Inspection

How do I schedule...?



- Gaithersburg City
- White Sign/Green Letters
301-258-6330

- Rockville City
- Blue Sign/White Letters
- White Sign/Blue Letters
- 240-314-5041



Pre-Inspection

How do I schedule...?

Montgomery County Green Sign/White Letters

- 240-777-2457
- Online Preferred



- www.montgomerycountymd.gov/firemarshal

Pre-Inspection

How do I schedule...?

- Allow up to 2 weeks for inspection to take place
- If calling and leaving a message:
 - Ask for a “new family day care inspection”
 - Clearly leave your name, address, and phone number

Pre-Inspection

What is the process?

- Inspector will look for items on the Fire Safety Checklist
- Inspector will inspect the whole house
- Inspector will leave something in writing
 - If passed – will write the approved napping and off limit areas
 - If not passed – will write why
 - Your responsibility to re-schedule when violation is corrected

The Inspection

Use the Fire Safety Checklist

While the inspection requirements are the same, the *process* for each jurisdiction is different.

#1 Address Numbers

- House numbers minimum 5" and visible to the street
 - May be on mailbox at end of long driveway



#2 Exit Lights

-Lights provided
by exit doors



#3 Doorknobs

- Bedroom and Bathroom doors must be able to be unlocked from the outside



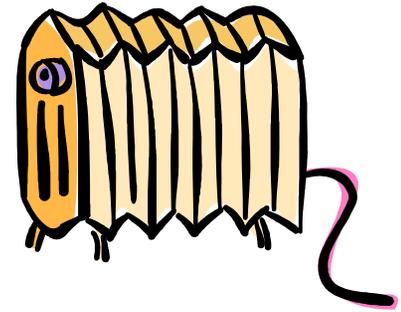
#4 Electrical Wiring

- All electrical wiring must be code compliant.
- Extension cords can only be used on a temporary basis.
 - Less than 12 months
 - Inspectors discretion



#5 Heating Equipment

- Is it being used as intended by the manufacturer?
- Is there a barrier to protect children?
- Does it meet the requirements of the Maryland State Department of Education?



#6 Fire Safety Checklist

- Escape Plan
 - Each floor used for child care must have a plan posted on the wall
 - Rooms must be labeled with different names
 - Those names will reflect the approved napping and off limit areas.

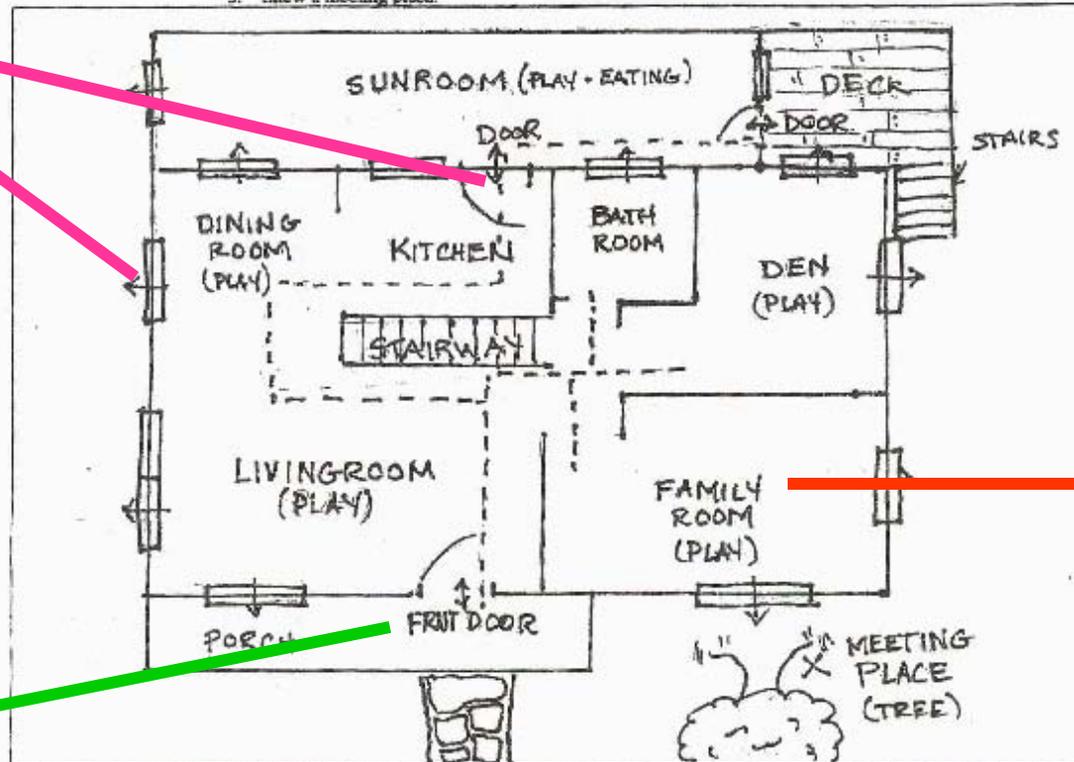
MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Child Care

EMERGENCY ESCAPE PLAN

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Draw a simple diagram of your entire home in the space below.
2. Name each area and room used for child care.
3. Show the use of each area (such as napping, eating, playing, off-limits, etc.).
4. Show two exits from each area (such as window or door).
5. Show a meeting place.

Will also show
the second
exits



Each room will
be labeled with
a different
name.

Plan will show
primary exit

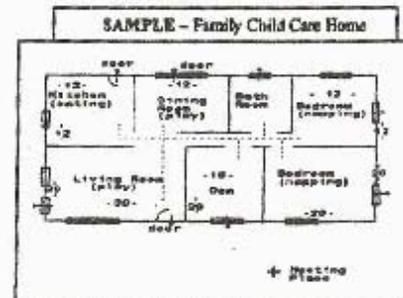
Emergency Escape Plan For:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

POST THIS PLAN IN THE CHILD CARE AREA.



Must have 2 exits from all sleeping areas

- First exit is the same way you got inside the room
- The second exit has to lead directly to the outside

What is an exit?

- It can be a door
- It can be a window
- Both have specific requirements

#6 Continued – Exit Door

- Open from the inside without a key



If the lock looks like this on the *inside* of the door it is **NOT** allowed.

#6 Continued – Basement Exit Door

- If exit door is in the basement – it can be no more than 8 feet up to ground level



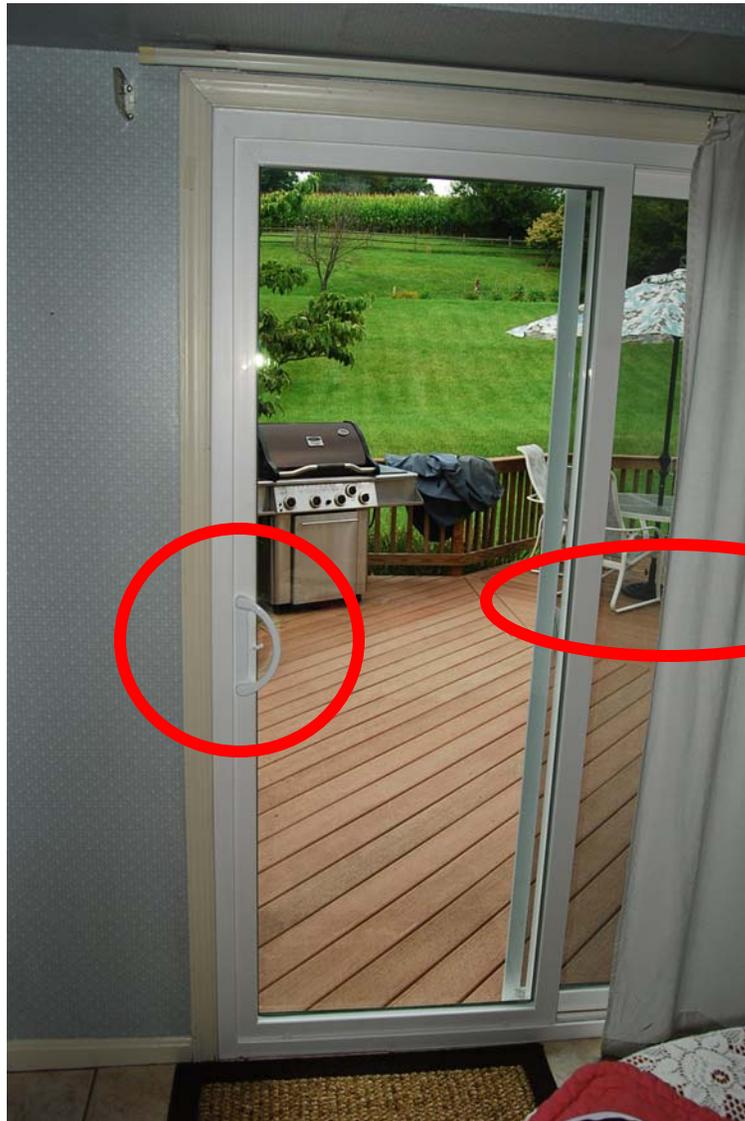
#6 Continued – Exit Door

- Sliding glass doors must meet the following:



#6 Continued – Sliding Door

1) No more than one lock



Bars not allowed on door during day care hours

#6 Continued – Sliding Door

2) No draperies
or screens

-May be pushed out of the
way



#6 Continued – Sliding Door

3) Outside no more than 8 inches lower than inside



#6 Continued – Sliding Door

4) Door must open at least 28 inches when open



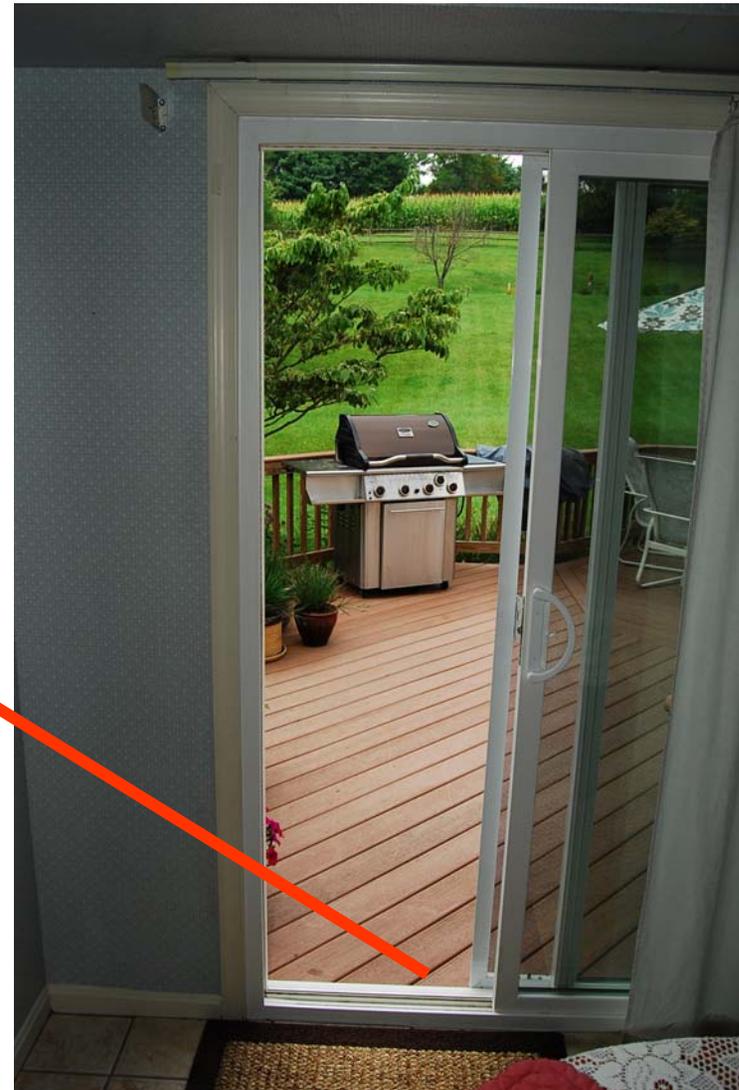
#6 Continued – Sliding Door

5) Door must be tested each day



#6 Continued – Sliding Door

6) During snow or freezing rain, tracks must be kept clean



#6 Continued – Exit Window

- Must meet minimum size when ***open***
 - More of an entrance for fire/rescue than a true exit
 - The window must meet all of the following:

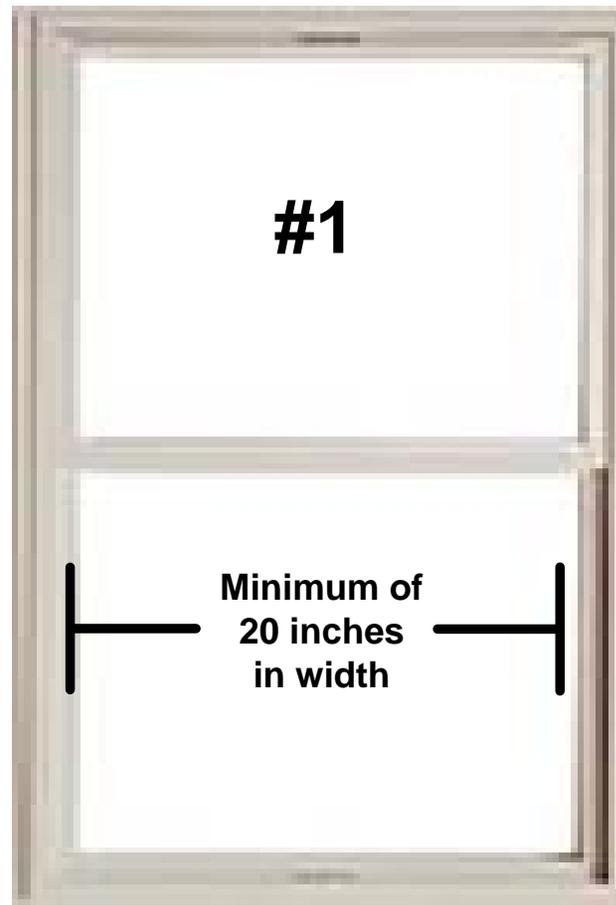


This window is closed.

We need to open it to see if it meets the requirements.



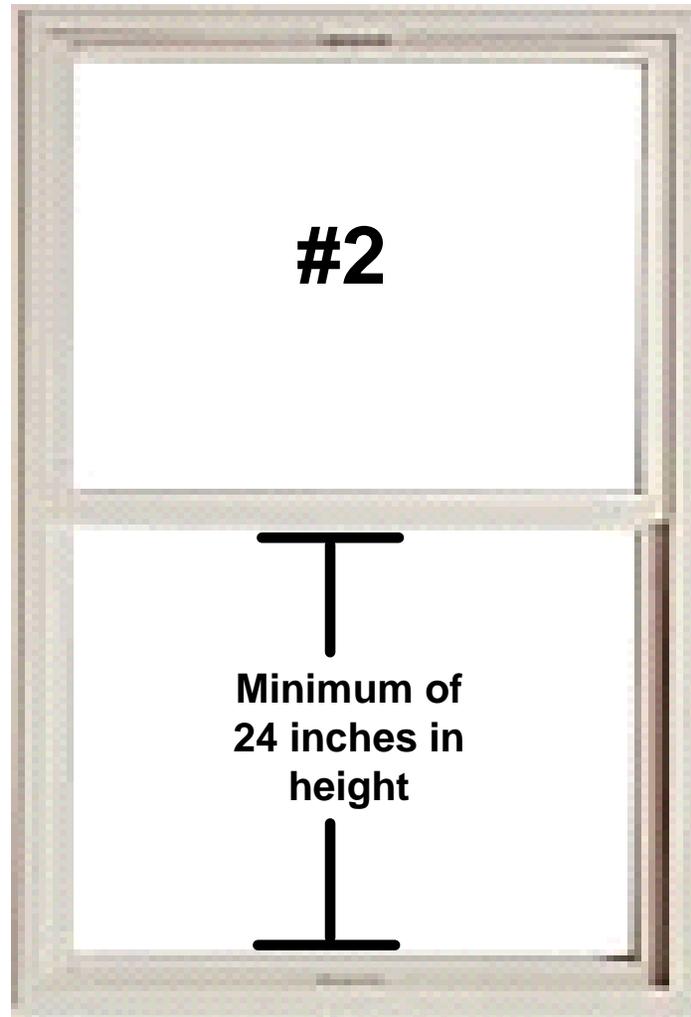
#6 Continued – Exit Window



This open window measures
33 inches in width



#6 Continued – Exit Window

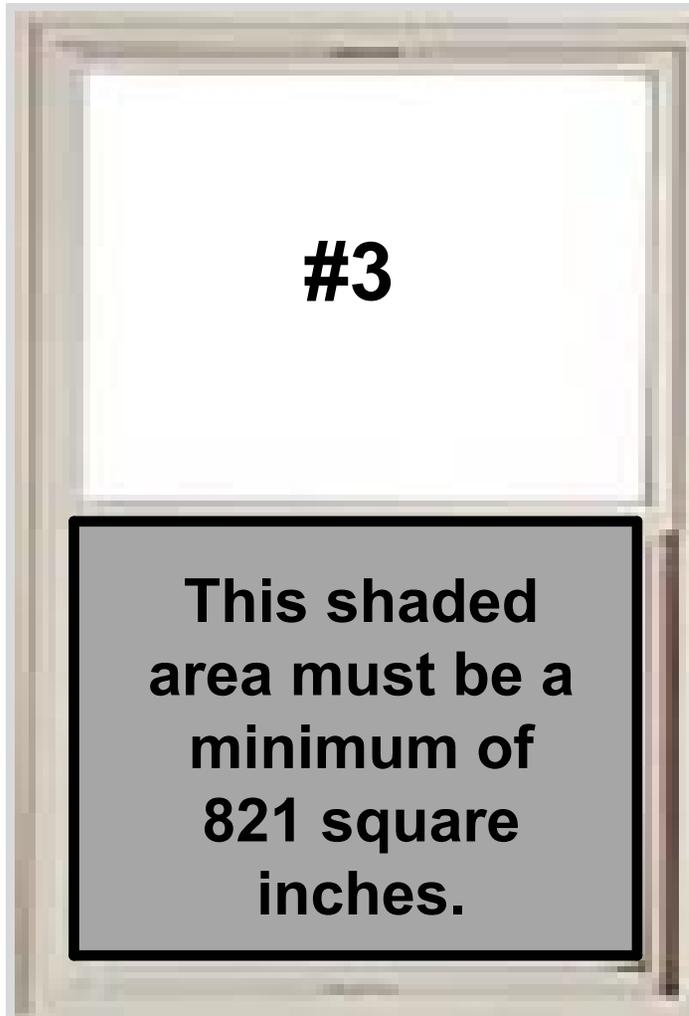


This open window
measures 14 inches
in height

This window is not compliant



#6 Continued – Exit Window



Example window
using minimums:

$$\begin{array}{r} 24 \text{ inches in height} \\ \times 20 \text{ inches in width} \\ \hline = 480 \text{ inches total} \end{array}$$

This window size is not approved.

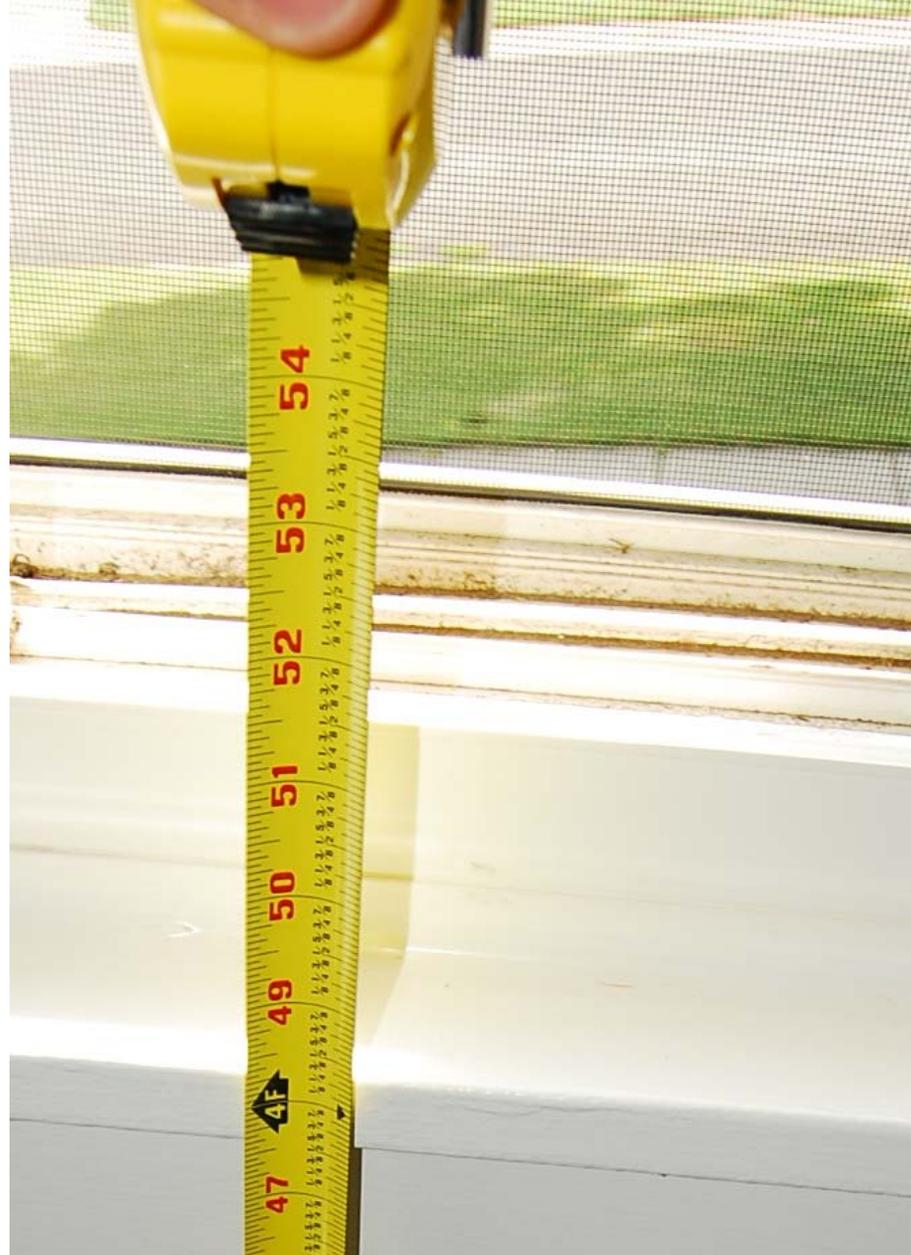
#6 Continued – Exit Window



#4



From bottom of the window to the floor is 50 inches



One 7 inch step was attached to the wall.

Measure from the top of the step and the bottom of the window is now 43 inches.



Exit Windows in Basement



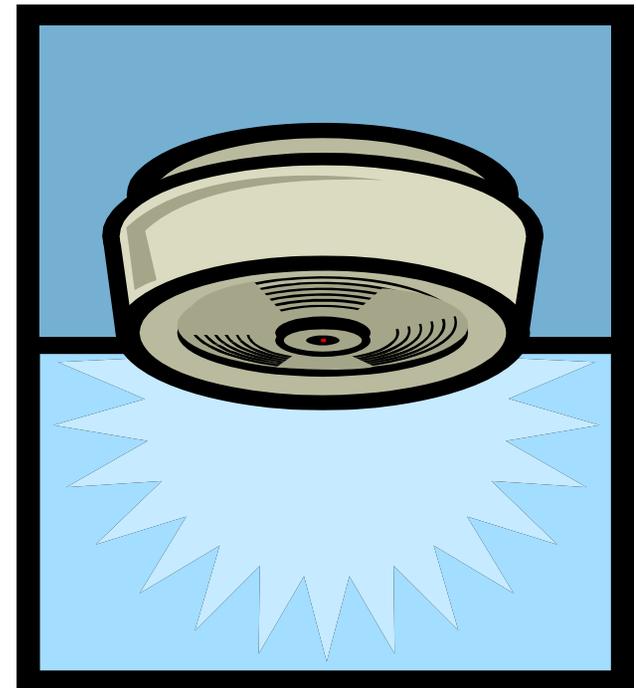


This window well must meet specific size requirements.

Contact us if you before you install a new basement window for the size requirements.

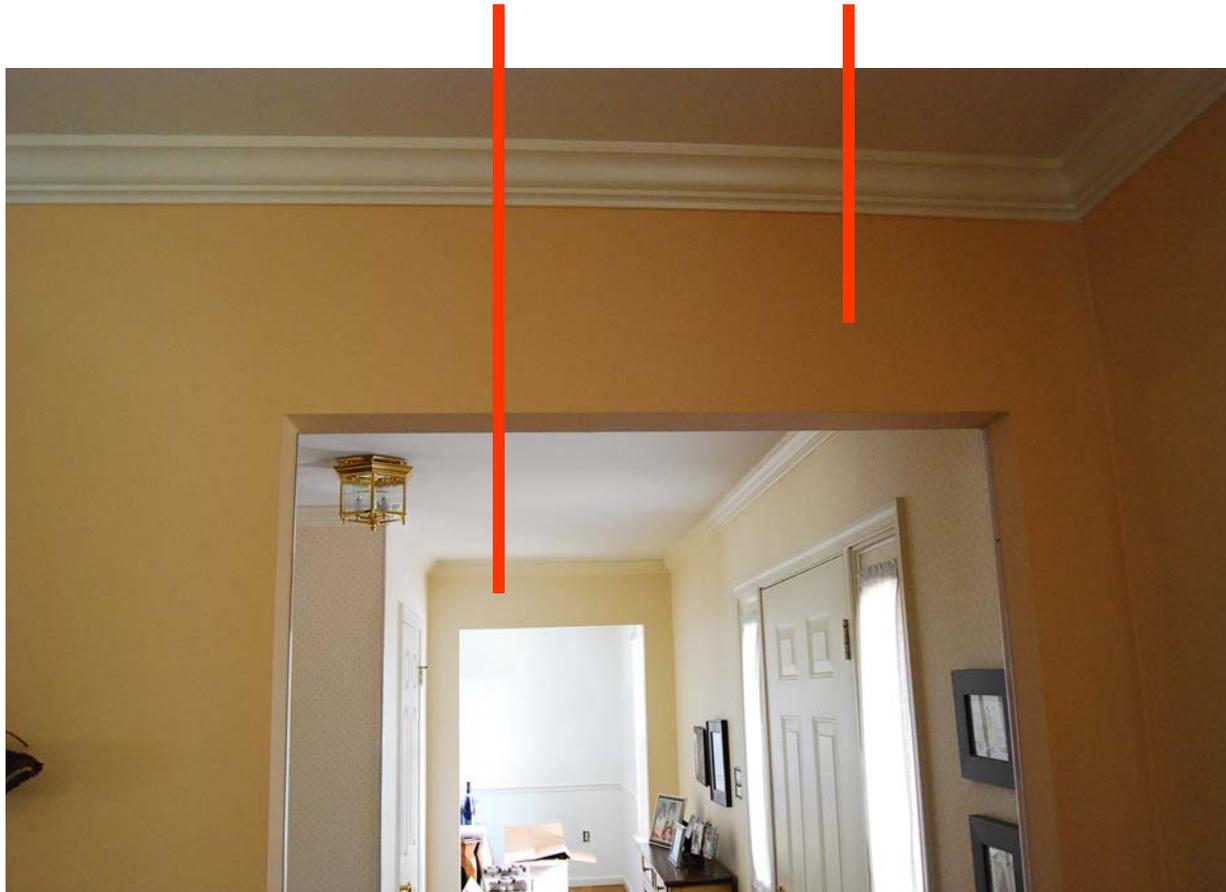
#7 Smoke Alarms

- All napping areas and each floor used for day care must have a smoke alarm
 - Hard wired & battery back-up
 - Connected to the household electrical system
 - If alarm is added, must obtain an electrical permit



#7 Continued – Smoke Alarms

These headers effectively divide the room into separate areas. Each area used for napping would need a separate smoke alarm.



#7 Continued – Smoke Alarms

Smoke alarms protect a maximum of 15 feet in all directions.

In large napping areas, more than one smoke alarm may be required.



#8 Apartment Buildings



Garden Apartment
Center Stairs – No corridors

High-rise or mid-rise
Has long hallways



#8 Continued Apartment Buildings

- Both types of apartment buildings need to obtain approval from management



#8 Continued Apartment Buildings

- Buildings with a long hallway
 - Smoke detectors must be 30 feet apart in hallway.
 - Smoke detectors must be connected to the building fire alarm.



#9 Fire Drills – After day care is licensed

- Practice and document every 30 days
 - Begin fire drill by testing smoke alarm
 - Have records available for Fire Marshal to review



Fire Extinguishers

- Fire extinguishers are not required
 - In an emergency get the children out
 - Call 911



Other Requirements

- The checklist is effective for the majority of FDC's
 - There may be other requirements that are specific to your situation.
 - The checklist will help you to determine if you are compliant.

After the Inspection

Billing -Montgomery County Only

- You will receive an invoice for \$55
- You will receive a permit. It will have the following:
 - Approved Napping Areas
 - Off Limit Areas
 - Expiration date
 - Approximately 2 years

After the Inspection

The Permit

- Permit is **NOT** approval to operate the day care
 - Only state of Maryland gives that authority
 - Permit simply notes that you have been inspected by the Fire Marshal

After the Inspection

- If we need to re-inspect:
 - Billed at \$35 per quarter hour
 - Includes travel and administrative time
 - If the first inspection does not pass, you are not billed

On-going...

- We will perform an unannounced inspection every two years.
- When day care is open, it is open for inspection by the Fire Marshal
- You may ask for ID
- You may call office to confirm person should be there



Questions?