

Graspable Handrails by Finn Home Inspectors

Graspable handrails are ones your hand can firmly grip, so if you slip you have the greatest chance of avoiding a harmful fall.

Large handrails like 2X4's is just too large for most people to be able to grasp firmly if needed.

Today's standard requires the handrail to run continuously along stairs, which includes around corners and over landings. The ends of the handrails should turn in and terminate at the wall. This helps someone trying to navigate the stairs when they can't see due to smoke or darkness. Many handrails were installed before these new standards were established and often are not identified as a defect by the home inspector.

The inspector is looking for handrails that you can grab securely and runs from the top to the bottom of the stairs (not one you need to reach for before you begin stair travel). The handrails must be securely mounted.

Below is a diagram of a recommended handrail details, (Art from Carson/Dunlop)

