



BUILDING BULLETIN

Building Services

Subject:	Temporary Guards
Building Bulletin No:	BD.BB.19.11
Date Issued:	January 30, 2019
Date Revised:	May 13, 2019
Reference:	1.3.3.2., Div. C, Ontario Building Code

A. Purpose

The purpose of this Building Bulletin is to ensure that the construction industry, contractors, and owners are clearly informed of the Chief Building Official's interpretation on the use of temporary guards in residential buildings.

B. Background and Definitions

Conditions for Residential Occupancy:

Sentence 1.3.3.2., Div. C of the Ontario Building Code (OBC) requires that all required guards and handrails are complete, operational and inspected.

Building Code Requirements for Guards

The perceptive requirements of the Building Code for guards include, but not limited to, the following:

- 9.8.8.2. - Loads on Guards
- 9.8.8.3. - Height of Guards
- 9.8.8.4. - Guards for Floors and Ramps in Garages
- 9.8.8.5. - Openings in Guards
- 9.8.8.6. - Guards Designed Not to Facilitate Climbing
- 9.8.8.7. - Glass in Guards

- 9.8.9.1. - Loads on Stairs and Ramps

C. General Interpretation and Requirements

1. All temporary guards shall satisfy all Building Code requirements for a guard(s).
2. Building industry practice occasionally requires the use of temporary guards until permanent building code compliant guards have been installed. Temporary guards may be permitted at the sole discretion of the Building Inspector provided that:
 - a. The temporary guard(s) has been demonstrated to provide effective performance and satisfies the equivalent loading requirements of the Ontario Building Code; and
 - b. The temporary guard(s) are constructed to not facilitate climbing.
 - c. The following materials are prohibited and shall not be used as a temporary guard(s) or portion thereof, including but not limited to:
 - snow fence,
 - caution tape,
 - lattice; and
 - other materials deemed not to comply with the loading requirements of the OBC.
2. Any temporary guards shall be noted on the Occupancy Permit and the building owner shall ensure same remains in place until replaced with a permanent code compliant guard(s) and/or structure. For example, rear sliding doors are sometimes secured with a “Juliet” guard where the elevation is greater than 24” above grade. These may only be removed where a deck structure constructed under a building permit and same has been inspected and finalized by a Building Inspector.
3. The Chief Building Official shall be notified of the replacement of a temporary guard with a permanent guard or structure. An inspection will be required by a Building Inspector upon the completion of all permanent code compliant guard(s).
4. Additional administration fees will be applicable in accordance with the Building By-law.

D. Reference Information

Ontario Building Code

E. Attached

N/A

F. Review Cycle

This building bulletin will be reviewed annually by the Chief Building Official.

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Chief Building Official

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The information in this bulletin is the interpretation and standard practice in the administration of the Town's Ontario Building Code Program and is provided for convenience only. Existing or proposed construction or other works shall comply with all applicable bylaws, codes and applicable law.