

## CHAPTER 3 BUILDING PLANNING

### SECTION R311.5.3.2 IRC Interpretation No. 29-06 2003 Edition Issued: 11-01-2006

**311.5.3.2 Tread depth.** The minimum tread depth shall be 10 inches (254 mm). The tread depth shall be measured horizontally between the vertical planes of the foremost projection of adjacent treads and at a right angle to the tread's leading edge. The greatest tread depth within any flight of stairs shall not exceed the smallest by more than 3/8 inch (9.5 mm). Winder treads shall have a minimum tread depth of 10 inches (254 mm) measured as above at a point 12 inches (305 mm) from the side where the treads are narrower. Winder treads shall have a minimum tread depth of 6 inches (152 mm) at any point. Within any flight of stairs, the greatest winder tread depth at the 12 inch (305 mm) walk line shall not exceed the smallest by more than 3/8 inch (9.5 mm).



**Q:** The provisions in Section R311.5.3.2 of the *International Residential Code* require winder treads to be a minimum depth of 10 inches at a point measured 12 inches from the narrow end of the tread.

Within a flight of stairs that includes straight treads and winder treads, are the winder treads required to be the same depth as the straight treads at the prescribed 12-inch measuring point?

**A:** No. The depth of a winder tread at the walk line, the prescribed 12-inch measuring point, is not required to be the same depth as straight treads within the same flight of stairs. The provisions in Section R311.5.3.2 require a minimum depth of 10 inches at the walk line. There is no requirement for a maximum depth of a winder tread. Where multiple winder treads are grouped together within a flight of stairs, all winder treads within that group must be the same depth at the 12-inch walk line/measuring point.

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