

**NC Department of Insurance  
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division  
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**Projections on Stairway Walls**

**Code:** 2012 Residential  
**Section:** R311.7.1

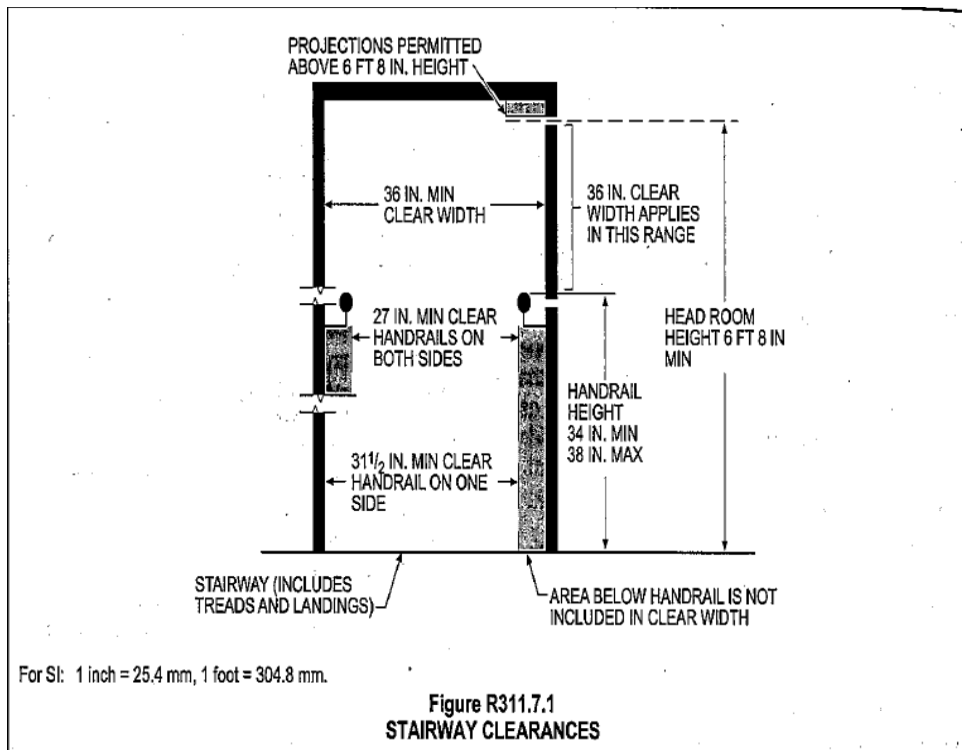
**Date:** August 24, 2016

**Question:**

In one and two family dwellings may items other than railings, which are specifically addressed in R311.7.1, be mounted on stairway walls and ceilings?

**Answer:**

Yes with limitations. Elements such as trim, stringers or other items may be on the wall below the handrail or handrails as long as they do not exceed projection limits allowed for handrails. These items must not reduce the required clear stairway dimension allowed for handrails. Similarly, elements may project into the stairway above the 6 feet 8 inches requirement of Section R311.7.2. See 2009 IRC commentary Figure R311.7.1 attached below. The allowed projection areas are shaded.



**Keywords:**

Lights, sconce, shelves