



OFFICE OF THE WOODBURY BUILDING OFFICIAL

Town of Woodbury ~ Woodbury, Connecticut
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GARY J. TESTA ~ BUILDING OFFICIAL

FINISHED BASEMENT CONSTRUCTION SOME HELPFUL ITEMS

(May not be a complete list)

1. Label each room or area for intended use. Draw plan of full basement showing finished rooms, stairs, windows, doors, furnace or boiler location, smoke detectors, closets, etc. supply a wall cross section, dimensions all areas.
2. Supply street address on plans.
3. Areas are NOT TO BE USED AS SLEEPING ROOMS unless constructed with that intent.
4. Sleeping rooms need an EMERGENCY ESCAPE window (Section R-310) min. 5.7 square feet with a maximum of 44" off the floor and min. of 20" wide and min. 24" high. Grade Floor Openings 5 square feet.
5. NO egress doors to enter a garage from a bedroom (R-311.1) .
6. Doors from a garage are to be 1-3/8" solid wood (no raised panels) or 20 minute rated and self-closing (R-309.1).
7. Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are required per (R-314).
8. Ceiling height of a finished basement ceiling is a min. 7' feet. (R-305), Existing Basements min. 6'8"
9. Sheet rock with 1/2" under the stairs if enclosed (ex. closet) (R-302.7).
10. Supply min. of 3' feet in front, 30" left to right and 6-1/2' in height working space around electrical Panels. around equipment. All receptacles to be tamper resistant, if in bedroom then tamper resistant and Arc Fault Protected, bathroom or kitchen area then tamper resistant and Arc Fault Protected. E3405, E3901, E3902, E4002.14
11. Fire blocking (R-302.11)(302.11.1)
12. Insulation is required as per (N-1102).
13. Light and ventilation is min. 8% of the floor area or use mechanical means (R-303).
14. If applies use 6 mil poly (plastic) placed on top of floor sleepers as a moisture barrier.
15. If applies Pressure treated wood sleepers and sill plates are to be used when in contact with concrete.
16. Heat is required (R-303.8) maintain a minimum of 68 degrees at 3' above the floor and 2' from exterior walls. The installation of one or more portable space heaters **shall** not be used to achieve compliance.
17. Combustion air for the heating appliances shall be per (M-1701), Solid fuel Burning Appliances (per manufacturers inst), Oil Fired Appliances in accordance with NFPA 31, Gas Fired Appliances (G-2407).
18. Light switches are required at the top and the bottom of the stairs.
19. No open incandescent light bulbs in closets.
20. Because this new space becomes habitable code compliant guard rails and grasping returned hand rails are required on existing stairs. Please check with the Building Department because there are many exceptions for existing stairs.

Another hint to keep you from having to do a lot of fire blocking. Most framed exterior walls in basements to be finished go up to the top plate which is attached to the floor joists that are higher than the concrete foundation wall. This creates a void along the perimeter that needs to be fireblocked. To alleviate this space, place a strip of 1/2" drywall around the perimeter. The Drywall will extend from the pressure treated sill plate on top of foundation wall to a distance that will allow you to attach the upper plate of the interior perimeter wall. Plumb down and finish framing wall. Now the perimeter is firestopped. Any questions please ask.