

Window Well Code Requirements

2020 MN Residential Code

R310.2.3 Window wells. The horizontal area of the window well shall be at least 9 square feet, with a horizontal projection and width of not less than 36 inches. The area of the window well shall allow the emergency escape and rescue opening to be fully opened. **Exception:** *The ladder or steps required by R310.2.3.1 is permitted to encroach up to 6 inches into the required dimensions of the window well.*

R310.2.3.1 Ladder and steps. Window wells with a vertical depth greater than 44 inches require a permanently affixed ladder or steps usable with the window in the fully open position. Ladders or rungs shall have an inside width of at least 12 inches, and project not less than 3 inches from the wall and shall be spaced not more than 18 inches on center vertically for the full height of the window well.

R310.2.3.2 Drainage. Window wells shall be designed for proper drainage by connecting to the building's foundation drainage system or by an approved alternative method. **Exception:** *A drainage system for window wells is not required where the foundation is on well-drained soil or sand-gravel mixture soils.*



Accuracy – Efficiency – Uniformity