



City of Raymore

Building Inspection Division
100 Municipal Cir; Raymore, MO 64083
816.331.7916 phone 816.331.8067 fax

Code Interpretation: 2012 IRC Interpretation 12

Date: 1/13/2014

Code/ Edition: 2012 International Residential Code (IRC)

Section(s): IRC R311.7.6 and R311.7.7

Subject:

Question: Can the landing at the bottom of an exterior stairway be the ground or a gravel surface that slopes not more than that permitted in Section R311.7.7?

Answer: No

Commentary: IRC Section R311.7.6 states there shall be a floor or landing at the top and bottom of each stairway, except interior stairways, provided a door does not swing over the interior stairs. Section R311.7.7 states the floor or landing shall not slope any steeper than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch per foot.

The intent of the code is that an exterior stair landing be composed of a material that is "permanent" and has the inherent ability to retain its shape. A typical ground or gravel surface would have a tendency to change shape or erode over time to a point where it may become unsafe.

Jon Woerner

Building Official

jwoerner@raymore.com