

Effective Oct. 1, 2024

(Ref.: ORS 455.610)



Department of Consumer  
and Business Services

# 2023 Oregon Residential Specialty Code Amendments

**Summary:** This amendment strikes the new model language and returns Section R310.1 to the exact language that existed in the 2021 ORSC.

The following amendments are adopted as part of the 2023 Oregon Residential Specialty Code (ORSC).

**Effective:** Oct. 1, 2024.

The changes are denoted as follows:

Blue/underline = Added code language  
~~Red/strikethrough~~ = Deleted code language

**R310.1 Emergency escape and rescue opening required.** *Basements, habitable attics* and every sleeping room shall have not less than one operable *emergency escape and rescue opening*. Where *basements* contain one or more sleeping rooms, an *emergency escape and rescue opening* shall be required in each sleeping room. *Emergency escape and rescue openings* shall open directly into a *public way*, or to a *yard* or court ~~having a minimum width of 36 inches (914 mm)~~ that opens to a *public way*.

**Exceptions:**

1. *Storm shelters* and *basements* used only to house mechanical *equipment* not exceeding a total floor area of 200 square feet (18.58 m<sup>2</sup>).
2. Where the *dwelling unit* or *townhouse* is equipped with an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with NFPA 13D, sleeping rooms in *basements* shall not be required to have *emergency escape and rescue openings* provided that the *basement* has one of the following:
  - 2.1. One means of egress complying with Section R311 and one *emergency escape and rescue opening*.
  - 2.2. Two means of egress complying with Section R311.
- ~~3. A *yard* shall not be required to open directly into a *public way* where the *yard* opens to an unobstructed path from the *yard* to the *public way*. Such path shall have a width of not less than 36 inches (914 mm).~~

For questions about the 2023 ORSC, visit the division website to [contact a building code specialist](#).