



City of Woburn
Massachusetts
Department of Inspection
Services

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Fire Escape and Fire Balcony Information

The City of Woburn is committed to ensuring the safety of residents and visitors. A significant part of that effort requires the involvement and cooperation of all property owners with regard to the overall condition and maintenance of their property.

In an effort to ensure all exterior staircases and fire escapes are safe and compliant with Massachusetts Building Code, property owners, with exterior means of egress such as fire escapes and stairs, are required to ensure the means of egress are **maintained, kept free of snow and ice, and inspected and certified every five years per the Massachusetts State Building Code.**

Specifically Chapter 10 of the Massachusetts State Building Code states:

1001.3.1 Maintenance of Exterior Stairs and Fire Escapes:

All exterior stairways and fire escapes shall be kept free of snow and ice. Exterior stairways and fire escapes constructed of materials requiring the application of weather protecting products, shall have these products applied in an approved manner and shall be applied as often as necessary to maintain the stairways and fire escapes in a safe condition. Weather resistant structural fasteners and connections shall tie the stairways and fire escapes directly into the building structural system.

1001.3.2 Testing and Certification:

All exterior bridges, steel or wooden stairways, fire escapes and egress balconies shall be examined and/or tested, and certified for structural adequacy and safety every five years, by a registered design professional, or others qualified and acceptable to the building official; said professional or others shall then submit an affidavit to the building official.

If you have additional questions, please call Inspectional Services at (781)897-5840