Ontario Building Code Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide

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Questions

1. **What is the minimum width required for a stairway in a residential building?**
   - **A. 750 mm**
   - **B. 900 mm**
   - **C. 1050 mm**
   - **D. 1200 mm**

2. **What is the minimum height required for a guardrail on a balcony in a high-rise building?**
   - **A. 900 mm**
   - **B. 1000 mm**
   - **C. 1100 mm**
   - **D. 1200 mm**

3. **What is the minimum number of exits required for a commercial building with a capacity of 200 people?**
   - **A. 1**
   - **B. 2**
   - **C. 3**
   - **D. 4**

4. **What is the minimum distance required between a toilet and a sidewall in a residential building?**
   - **A. 300 mm**
   - **B. 350 mm**
   - **C. 400 mm**
   - **D. 450 mm**

5. **Which of the following is not a requirement for an accessible route in a residential building?**
   - **A. Ramp with handrails**
   - **B. Level landings at changes of direction**
   - **C. Minimum width of 0.9 meters**
   - **D. Non-slip surface**

6. Which of the following is not required for an accessible route in a commercial building?

A. Ramped approach

B. Level landings at changes of direction

C. Minimum width of 1.2 meters

D. Non-slip surface

7. Which of the following is not required for a barrier-free washroom in a commercial building?

A. Grab bars

B. Barrier-free entrance

C. Sink with knee clearance

D. Bathtub with built-in seat

8. Which of the following is not a requirement for a fire-rated column assembly in an industrial building?

A. Labeled with a fire rating

B. Non-combustible materials

C. Continuous from floor to underside of roof sheathing

D. Minimum thickness of 50 mm

9. What is the minimum height required for a guardrail on a roof in a residential building?

A. 900 mm

B. 1000 mm

C. 1100 mm

D. 1200 mm

10. What is the minimum height required for a guardrail on a balcony in a residential building?

A. 0.9 meters

B. 1.0 meter

C. 1.1 meters

D. 1.2 meters

Answers

1. B
2. C
3. B
4. C
5. C
6. C
7. D
8. D
9. C
10. C

Explanations

1. What is the minimum width required for a stairway in a residential building?

A. 750 mm

B. 900 mm

C. 1050 mm

D. 1200 mm

Stairways in residential buildings are required to have a minimum width of 900 mm. This allows for safe and comfortable passage for people going up and down the stairs. Option A (750 mm) may not provide enough space for two people to pass each other comfortably, while options C (1050 mm) and D (1200 mm) may provide excess space that is not necessary and can potentially take up valuable space in the building. Therefore, option B is the most appropriate and efficient option for a residential stairway width.

2. What is the minimum height required for a guardrail on a balcony in a high-rise building?

A. 900 mm

B. 1000 mm

C. 1100 mm

D. 1200 mm

The minimum height required for a guardrail on a balcony in a high-rise building is established to ensure the safety of occupants by preventing falls. The Ontario Building Code specifies that guardrails must be a minimum of 1100 mm (or approximately 43 inches) high above the surface they are protecting, which is the reason why this answer is correct. This height is designed to provide an adequate barrier for most individuals, accommodating a range of heights and ensuring that the risk of accidental falls is minimized. In high-rise buildings, this height requirement is particularly crucial due to the increased risk associated with being at elevated levels, where a fall could result in serious injury or death. Therefore, having a robust guardrail system that meets this height standard is essential for occupant safety. Additionally, this regulation aligns with practice standards and safety protocols that are universally promoted in building codes to protect people in elevated situations.

3. What is the minimum number of exits required for a commercial building with a capacity of 200 people?

A. 1

B. 2

C. 3

D. 4

For a commercial building with a capacity of 200 people, the minimum number of exits required is 2. This is because according to fire safety regulations, there must be at least two exits for buildings with a capacity of 101-500 people. Option A and D are incorrect because 1 or 4 exits would not meet the safety requirements. Option C is incorrect because even though it meets the minimum requirement of two exits, it is only applicable for buildings with a capacity of 501-1,000 people.

4. What is the minimum distance required between a toilet and a sidewall in a residential building?

A. 300 mm

B. 350 mm

C. 400 mm

D. 450 mm

In residential buildings, the Ontario Building Code specifies that the minimum distance required between a toilet and a sidewall is 400 mm. This measurement is essential for ensuring adequate space for comfort and accessibility. It allows for proper use of the toilet without any obstruction and contributes to the overall functionality of the bathroom layout. The 400 mm distance also helps ensure that any plumbing and maintenance work can be performed without difficulty. Adhering to this minimum distance is particularly important in promoting safety and convenience within the space, as it ensures that the toilet is easily reachable and that individuals have enough room to move without feeling cramped. Proper consideration of these clearances is crucial in residential design to adhere to building codes and enhance user experience.

5. Which of the following is not a requirement for an accessible route in a residential building?

A. Ramp with handrails

B. Level landings at changes of direction

C. Minimum width of 0.9 meters

D. Non-slip surface

An accessible route in a residential building must include a ramp with handrails, level landings at changes of direction, and a non-slip surface. These are all requirements to ensure that individuals with disabilities or mobility issues can safely and easily navigate the building. However, a minimum width of 0.9 meters is not specifically mentioned as a requirement, though it is recommended for accessibility. This is because the guidelines for accessible routes may vary depending on the specific building and location requirements.

6. Which of the following is not required for an accessible route in a commercial building?

A. Ramped approach

B. Level landings at changes of direction

C. Minimum width of 1.2 meters

D. Non-slip surface

An accessible route in a commercial building must include a ramped approach, level landings at changes of direction and a non-slip surface. The minimum required width for an accessible route is 1.5 meters, not 1.2. Therefore, option C is not required for an accessible route and is the correct answer.

7. Which of the following is not required for a barrier-free washroom in a commercial building?

A. Grab bars

B. Barrier-free entrance

C. Sink with knee clearance

D. Bathtub with built-in seat

A barrier-free washroom in a commercial building is designed to accommodate individuals with disabilities, ensuring that everyone can access and use the facilities comfortably and safely. The requirements for such washrooms are guided by regulations that specify essential features to enhance accessibility. Grab bars are crucial in providing support for individuals with mobility challenges, particularly when using toilets or transferring from wheelchairs. A barrier-free entrance is also mandatory, allowing individuals to enter and exit the washroom without encountering obstacles. Additionally, a sink designed with knee clearance is fundamental, enabling wheelchair users to access the sink comfortably. The requirement for a bathtub with a built-in seat, however, is not universally mandated for all barrier-free washrooms, particularly in commercial contexts. Many commercial facilities may not include bathtubs at all, as the focus often leans more towards shower facilities or simply providing accessible toilets and sinks. Therefore, while a bathtub can enhance comfort for some users, it is not a standard requirement, making this option the correct response in identifying what is not required for a barrier-free washroom in a commercial setting.

8. Which of the following is not a requirement for a fire-rated column assembly in an industrial building?

A. Labeled with a fire rating

B. Non-combustible materials

C. Continuous from floor to underside of roof sheathing

D. Minimum thickness of 50 mm

A requirement for a fire-rated column assembly in an industrial building is that it must be Labeled with a fire rating. This ensures that the column has been tested and approved to withstand a certain level of fire exposure. B Non-combustible materials- This is also a requirement for a fire-rated column assembly. It means that the materials used in the assembly must not burn or contribute to the spread of fire. C: Continuous from floor to underside of roof sheathing- This is also a requirement for a fire-rated column assembly. It means that the column must extend from the floor to the underside of the roof sheathing without any breaks or gaps. D: Minimum thickness of 50 mm- This is not a requirement for a fire-rated column assembly in an industrial building. The thickness of the column will vary depending on the type of construction and the materials used. While a thicker column may provide more fire resistance, it is not a specific requirement.

9. What is the minimum height required for a guardrail on a roof in a residential building?

A. 900 mm

B. 1000 mm

C. 1100 mm

D. 1200 mm

It is important to have a guardrail on a roof in a residential building to ensure safety. In this case, the minimum height required for the guardrail is 1100 mm. Option A, 900 mm, is too short and may not adequately protect individuals from falling. Option B, 1000 mm, is also too short and does not meet the minimum height requirement. Option D, 1200 mm, is too high and may be unnecessary for a residential building. Therefore, option C, 1100 mm, is the correct and most suitable height for a guardrail on a roof in a residential building.

10. What is the minimum height required for a guardrail on a balcony in a residential building?

A. 0.9 meters

B. 1.0 meter

C. 1.1 meters

D. 1.2 meters

In residential buildings, the Ontario Building Code specifies that the minimum height for guardrails on balconies is 1.1 meters. This height is established to ensure safety for individuals using the balcony, providing adequate protection against falls. The height requirement is based on considerations for the potential risks associated with elevated structures, especially in places where children may have access. Having a guardrail at this height minimizes the chance of individuals accidentally toppling over the edge and offers a level of security that aligns with safety standards recognized in building regulations. This height is intended to be a safe compromise that addresses various scenarios, including leaning over the railing, which may occur in both residential contexts and more public spaces. The other options present heights that fall below the code's specified minimum, which could lead to increased risk of accidental falls and do not meet established safety standards.