

Protection Against Falling



A barrier is an upright panel intended to prevent a user from falling.

Barriers must be installed on easily accessible platforms that measure 600mm or more above ground level (to conform to AS 4685). *Kidsafe* recommends that barriers are not installed for platforms less than 600mm above ground level. For equipment other than easily accessible, barriers are required for platforms more than 2000mm above ground level.

The vertical height of barriers should be a minimum of 700mm above the standing surface.

Ensure barrier openings:

- Do not present a head and neck entrapment hazard. Any opening 600mm or more above surface level must be smaller than 89mm or larger than 230mm. *Kidsafe* recommends a gap smaller than 75mm between vertical rails constructed of timber. Refer to Figure 1.
- Are designed to prevent users gaining a foothold which may assist them to climb onto the top rail. Any horizontal rails should be replaced with either vertical infill panels or solid panels. Refer to Figure 2.
- Include some transparency to assist with supervision where solid infill panels are used.



Modifying horizontal panels or mid-rails

Fix 90mm decking boards to inside face of rails: allow 75mm gaps between timber boards (or less than 89mm for metal or plastics).

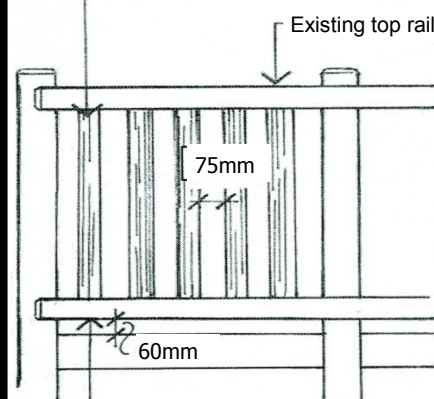


Figure 1

Reposition mid-rail to ensure lowest edge of bottom rail is 60mm above landing

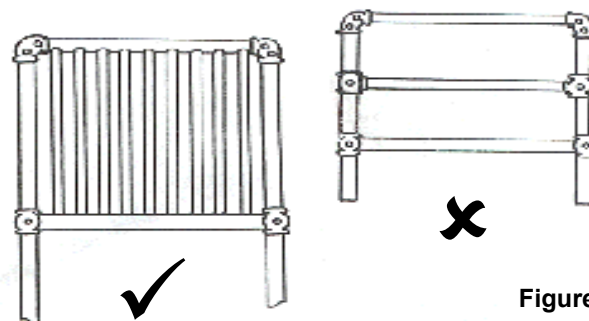


Figure 2

Barriers require vertical rails or solid panels which do not provide footholds or present entrapment hazards.



child safety is no accident

Handrails

A handrail is a rail intended to assist the user to balance.

In supervised early childhood settings AS 4685:2014 requires a single handrail be installed 450-700mm above the foot position. Kidsafe recommends that for 0-2 years age group a barrier is used in place of handrails.

For all age settings AS 4685:2014 requires single handrails are installed 600-900mm above the foot position. Two or more handrails may be provided as long as the upper handrail conforms with the requirements indicated for single handrails and spacing between handrails does not introduce entrapment hazards.

The diameter of handrails should measure between 16mm to 45mm to provide a comfortable grip for children or be suitable for grasping (width not greater than 60mm).



Unintended Access

Care must be taken in the design of play equipment to ensure components do not contain horizontal or near horizontal rails or bars that may be used as steps by children for climbing. The design of barriers should discourage children from standing or sitting on them and not contain infill that may encourage climbing.



Inspection and Maintenance

AS/NZS 4486 requires routine maintenance checks to be conducted on a regular basis.

- Check regularly for loose or missing barriers, guardrails and handrails
- If the barrier has been damaged or has parts missing, check that head and neck entrapment hazards are not introduced with repair works (openings between 89-230mm).
- Tighten bolts on a regular basis.
- Check for rust and corrosion on metal components.
- Check for deterioration and rotting of timber components. Timber requires regular sealing.



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