



# City of Belle Plaine | Building Inspections

218 Meridian Street North | Belle Plaine, MN | 952-873-5553

## EGRESS WINDOW CODE REQUIREMENTS

### **NOTE: Two inspections: Framing and final**

*Scheduling inspections is the responsibility of the applicant.*

### **Requirements for Building Permit Application**

- Completed Building Permit application form with signature
- Property owner waiver if homeowner is applying for permit as the contractor
- Submit copy of plans showing proposed designs and materials (plans and application may be emailed to [permitting@belleplainemn.gov](mailto:permitting@belleplainemn.gov); plans shall be drawn to scale and shall include a floor plan indicating the following:
  - Existing and proposed size of opening for window
  - Direction and length of floor joists
  - Indication of room use (i.e. bathroom, bedroom, laundry, family room)
  - Required installation of Smoke Detectors (see below)

### **Installation of Smoke Detectors Required**

When interior alterations, repairs or additions requiring a permit occur, or when one or more sleeping rooms are added or created, smoke detectors shall be installed throughout the existing dwelling unit as required for new dwellings; the smoke detectors shall be interconnected and hard wired. (Exception: When alterations/repairs do not result in the removal of interior walls or ceiling finishes, exposing the structure or work on the exterior surfaces of dwellings or permits involving alterations or repairs to plumbing, mechanical or electrical.)

- One in each sleeping room
- One outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms
- A smoke detector shall be installed on each story and in the basement
- In dwellings where a story or basement is split into two or more levels the smoke detector shall be installed on the upper level except when the lower level contains a sleeping area, a detector shall be installed on each level

### **General Building Requirements**

Basements and every sleeping room shall have at least one openable window or door approved for emergency escape or rescue. The emergency door or window shall be operational from the inside to provide a full clear opening without the use of separate tools.

**Escape or rescue windows** shall be a minimum net clear openable area of 5.7 square feet. The minimum net clear openable height shall be 24 inches and the minimum net clear openable width shall be 20 inches. Escape or rescue windows shall have a finished sill height of not more than 44 inches

above the floor. (Exception: grade floor opening (not more than 44 inches above or below grade) shall have a net clear opening of 5 square feet).

**Window wells** for escape or rescue windows shall comply with the following:

- The minimum horizontal area of the window shall be 9 square feet, with a minimum horizontal projection & width of 36 inches. The area of the window well shall allow the emergency escape & rescue opening to be fully opened.
- Window wells with a vertical depth more than 44 inches shall be equipped with an approve permanently affixed ladder or stairs that is accessible with the window in the fully open position. The ladder or stairs shall not encroach into the required dimensions of the window well by more than 6 inches.
- Bars, grilles, covers, screens or similar devices are permitted to be placed over emergency escape or rescue openings, provided they are releasable or removable from the inside without the use of a key, tool, or special knowledge or force greater than that which is required for normal operation of escape or rescue opening.

*Note: The information above represents general code requirements for egress windows. For specific code requirements, please contact the Building Inspection Department at 952-873-5655.*

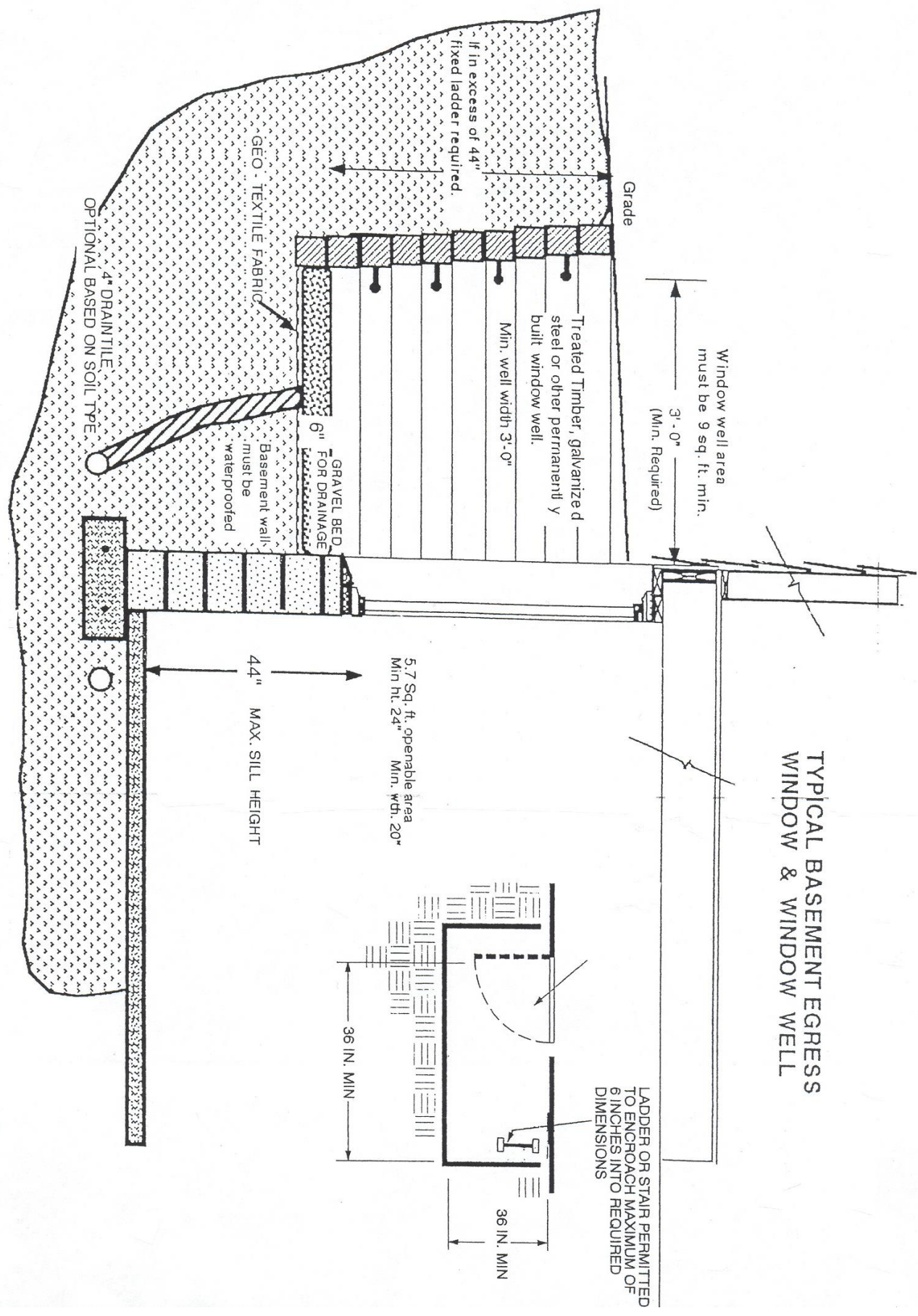
### **Required Inspections**

- Framing
- Final

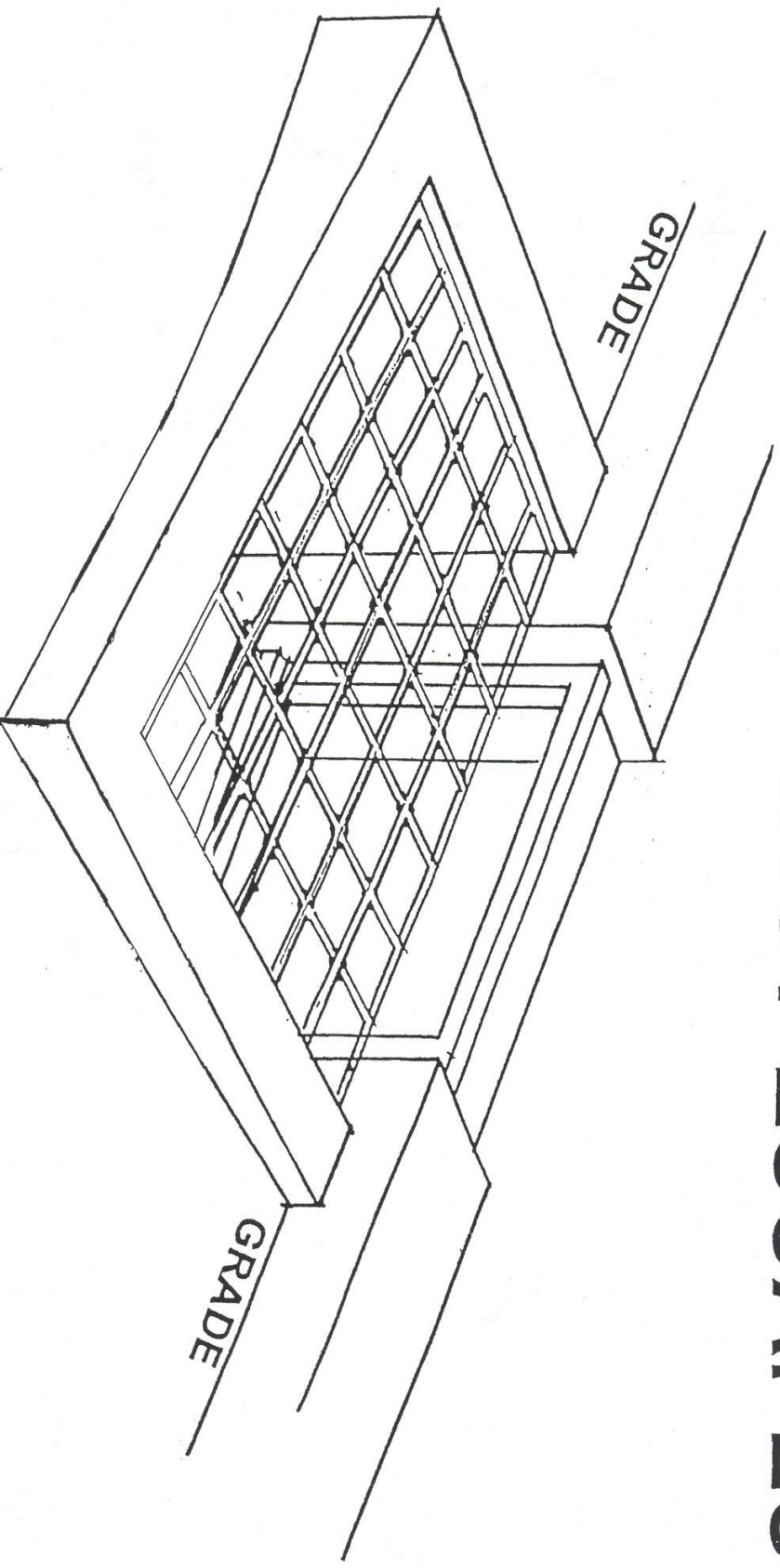
*\* The State of Minnesota requires that all residential building contractors, remodelers and roofers obtain a state license unless they qualify for a specific exemption from the licensing requirements. Any person claiming an exemption must provide a copy of a Certificate of Exemption from the MN Department of Labor & Industry to the City before a permit can be issued.*

*\* To determine contractor's status please visit the MN Department of Labor & Industry website at [www.dli.mn.gov](http://www.dli.mn.gov).*

# TYPICAL BASEMENT EGRESS WINDOW & WINDOW WELL



# ACCESS AND EXIT FACILITIES AND EMERGENCY ESCAPES



Bars, grilles, covers, screens or similar devices are permitted to be placed over emergency escape or rescue windows, doors or window wells, provided that the devices are releasable or removable from the inside without the use of a key, tool or force greater than that which is required for normal operation of escape or rescue opening.

# TYPICAL BASEMENT EGRESS WINDOW & WINDOW WELL

