



# DENVER AMENDMENT PROPOSAL FORM FOR PROPOSALS TO THE 2019 DENVER BUILDING CODE AMENDMENTS AND THE 2021 INTERNATIONAL CODES

**DENVER**  
THE MILE HIGH CITY

## 2021 CODE DEVELOPMENT CYCLE

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2) One proposal per this document is to be provided with clear and concise information.

Is a separate graphic file provided (“X” to answer): \_\_\_ Yes or  No

3) Highlight the code and acronym that applies to the proposal

<u>Acronym</u>	<u>Code Name</u>	<u>Acronym</u>	<u>Code Name</u>
DBC-AP	Denver Building Code–Administrative Provisions	IPC	International Plumbing Code
IBC	International Building Code	<b>IRC</b>	<b>International Residential Code</b>
IECC	International Energy Conservation Code	IFGC	International Fuel Gas Code
IEBC	International Existing Building Code	IMC	International Mechanical Code
IFC	International Fire Code	DGC	Denver Green Code

## AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

Please provide all the following items in your amendment proposal.

<p><b><u>Code Sections/Tables/Figures Proposed for Revision:</u></b> <b>Instructions:</b> If the proposal is for a new section, indicate (new), otherwise enter applicable code section.</p>
<p><b><u>Proposal:</u></b> <b>Instructions:</b> Show the proposal using <del>strikeout</del>, <u>underline</u> format. <b>Place an “X” next to the choice that best defines your proposal:</b> ___ Revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>New Text</b> ___ Delete/Substitute ___ Deletion</p> <p><b>R403.1 General is amended by adding the Exception as follows:</b></p> <p><b>R312.1.1 Where required.</b> <i>Guards</i> shall be provided for those portions of open-sided walking surfaces, including floors, stairs, ramps, <del>and</del> landings, <u>decks, patios, and other hardscaped and landscaped surfaces designed and intended for walking</u> that are located more than 30 inches (762 mm) measured vertically to the floor or grade below at any point within 36 inches (914 mm) horizontally to the edge of the open side. Insect screening shall not be considered as a guard.</p> <p><b><u>Exception.</u></b> <u>A guard shall not be required at retaining walls adjacent to hardscaped or landscaped walking surfaces located 36 inches or more, measured horizontally and perpendicularly, from the top edge of the retaining wall.</u></p>
<p><b><u>Supporting Information (Required):</u></b> All proposals must include a written explanation and justification as to how they address physical, environmental, and/or customary characteristics that are specific to the City and County of Denver. The following questions must be answered for a proposal to be considered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Purpose: What does your proposal achieve?</li> </ul> <p>This proposal will increase protections for Denver residents where exterior walkways are in proximity to the top of tall retaining walls in the landscaping that create a fall hazard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reason: Why is your proposal necessary?</li> </ul>

Denver has seen a significant increase in residents wishing to create more amenities and features in and around their properties. As an urban environment, many of these properties are small so modifications to the exterior grade are made to level out the property for more uses including sunken patios. These modifications include retaining walls at heights greater than the 30 inches in height. The IRC protects occupants from fall hazards by requiring guards for stairs, ramps and landings more than 30 inches above grade. This proposal extends this protection to the exterior urban environment for hardscaped and landscaped surfaces that have a similar fall hazard and risk to occupants. Walking on a path in the yard should afford similar safety to the occupant as when walking on their deck.

- Substantiation: Why is your proposal valid? (i.e. technical justification)

The terms hardscaped and landscaped surfaces intended for walking is intended to direct the interpretation of this amendment toward areas where there is a probability of an occupant walking. An exception is provided in the case that a landscaped or hardscaped walking path is 36 inches or more away from the retaining wall, the likelihood of falling over it is reduced. The 36-inch distance was selected as it is the distance a walking surface near glazing is considered no longer probable for human impact. This is intended for the case where there may be other hardscaping or landscaping not intended for walking in the 36-inch distance adjacent the top but is delineated in some fashion from the landscaped or hardscaped portion that is intended for walking. A guard would not be required in those instances. This would allow a resident who does not wish to have a guard on their retaining wall to have another design option for reducing the probability of a fall from the top.

**Bibliography and Access to Materials** (as needed when substantiating material is associated with the amendment proposal):

**Other Regulations Proposed to be Affected**

**\*For proposals to delete content from the 2019 Denver Green Code in conjunction with adding it to other mandatory Denver codes and/or regulations, only.**

Please identify which other mandatory codes or regulations are suggested to be updated (if any) to accept relocated content.

**Referenced Standards:**

List any new referenced standards that are proposed to be referenced in the code.

**Impact:**

How will this proposal impact cost and restrictiveness of code? ("X" answer for each item below)

Denver staff already interprets these walking surfaces as applicable for required guards. This proposals makes that interpretation more clear

Cost of construction:	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase	<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact
Cost of design:	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase	<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact
Restrictiveness:	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase	<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact

**Departmental Impact (City use only):**

This amendment proposal increases/decreases/is neutral to the cost of plans review.

This amendment increases/decreases/is neutral to the cost of inspections.