

One alternative would be to provide a sill sufficiently high above the floor level to stop a wheeled toy on impact. The elevated sill would also induce an awareness of the window wall's presence. Another alternative is the use of safety glazing. The high impact resistance of safety glazing may not be sufficient to prevent breakage in case of severe impact forces, but, if breakage occurs, the broken pieces of glass will not present a major safety hazard to the victim. Window wall configurations that combine the safety advantages of the elevated sill with the advantages of safety glazing would provide an installation that would minimize the probability of serious injury in the event of accident. The use of guards, railings, or decorative planters may reduce the probability of collision accidents where these alternatives do not seriously detract from the intended purpose of the window wall.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The following safety features and alternatives shall be considered in the planning of residential window wall locations.

- **Provide minimum sill height of 12 inches above the floor level.**
- **Use of safety glazing.**
- **Provide guards, railings, or decorative planters adjacent to the window wall.**
- **Window walls shall not be located in otherwise highly hazardous areas such as stair landings, at the foot of stairs, and along upper levels unprotected by an exterior porch or balcony surface.**

Before building, consult the BOCA code.

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