



## Pre-Inspection Guidelines for Fire Escape Inspections

New York State now requires fire escape inspections, and **APD** wants you to pass! A **PASS** means that your fire escape is **accessible, functional, and in compliance with applicable life safety and building codes**. **APD** can help you throughout the entire process. We can perform inspections and issue code-required reports to building inspectors. **APD** can also design recommended repairs or alternative solutions, recommend contractors, and communicate with the building or fire department on your behalf regarding the status of your fire escape.

To help you pass your first inspection and avoid the cost of follow-up inspections, we put together the list of items below so that you and/or your contractor can prepare for a successful inspection.

Please review the following steps to take before scheduling a fire escape inspection:

- ✓ Ensure building occupants can get to, climb/walk down, and move safely away from your fire escape without obstacles. Do not allow plants, furniture and debris to block access.
- ✓ Ensure any and all moving parts (counterweights, ladders, stairs) move freely and are well lubricated. This should be done multiple times per year.
- ✓ Ensure railings are securely attached and do not wobble or bend when pressure is applied.
- ✓ Check that no bolts or other hardware are missing at attachment points to the building.
- ✓ Ensure that all stair treads and stringers are securely attached.
- ✓ All fire escapes must be constructed of non-combustible materials and painted or protected from the elements to prevent rust or corrosion.
- ✓ Surface rust can quickly develop into structural rust, which can be expensive to repair. If you see a lot of surface rust, it is recommended that it be removed and fresh paint applied. Note, painting may be completed after a scheduled inspection, however painting over structural rust without repairing it first may result in a failure upon inspection.

Whether you are ready for a fire escape inspection, or have questions about getting started, or even if your fire escape needs major repairs, **APD** is happy to help, so please give us a call!

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