Window-sill height

The minimum window-sill height requirements are intended to reduce the number of injuries from falls by children through open windows. The 24-inch sill height is typically above a small child’s center of gravity, reducing the likelihood of the child’s toppling over the sill. The code regulates this minimum sill height only when the window opening is more than 72 inches above the grade below. In such locations, where the sill height is lower than 24 inches, protection can be achieved by installing a barrier or limiting the dimensions of the window opening. One such alternative is a window fall protection device meeting the requirements of the referenced standard, thereby complying with the operation provisions for emergency escape and rescue openings. An approved window opening limiting device with a clearly labeled quick release device may also be used on emergency escape and rescue openings (Figures 8-17 and 8-18).

[Ref. R612.2]
Window opening limiting devices and fall prevention devices must be approved for emergency escape and rescue provisions.

**Approved emergency release window opening limiting device**

**Approved window fall prevention device conforming to ASTM 2090**

**Fixed glazing panel**

4 in. sphere cannot pass through

Finish floor

> 72 in.

Finish grade

< 24 in.

Finish floor

> 72 in.

Finish grade

≥ 24 in.

≥ 24 in.

≥ 24 in.

≥ 24 in.

**FIGURE 8-18** Alternatives to 24-inch window-sill height