

Our Most Asked Questions

To make your project planning easier, we've compiled answers to the most common questions from customers. From sizing to troubleshooting, here's everything you need to know.

What measurements do I need to start my project?

Finished Floor-to-Floor Height

The most important measurement that you'll need to know to build a spiral staircase is your finished floor to finished floor height. Every stair is custom built to fit your space and an accurate floor to floor height is the first step to starting your project. Your finished floor-to-floor height will determine how many steps, or treads, are in your stair and the rotation of your spiral stair.

You can measure your floor to floor height by starting at the bottom floor where you will be installing the stair, this could be the ground or a lower level patio. From here, measure up to the finished deck surface and include any additional deck boards that add to the thickness of the deck for the most accurate measurement.

How should I select a spiral stair diameter?

Diameter can be defined as a straight line going through the center of a circle connecting two points on the circumference. In other words, when we ask you what diameter you would like for your stair what we are really asking is, "How wide do you want your spiral stair to be?"

While all Paragon Stairs models meet building code, you want to consider how much clear walking space you want for your staircase.

When we talk about "clear walking space," we are focusing on the physical area you have to walk up and down the stairs. One of the major benefits of a spiral staircase is the large surface of each step in a small space. This amount of clear walking space is determined by your stair's diameter.

Clear Walking Space Guide	
Stair Diameter	Clear Walk Space
5'0"	26"
5'6"	29"
6'0"	32"

It can be hard to envision these measurements without physically seeing them. A quick trick to seeing your clear walking space is to use a sliding door in your home. Slide open your door to match the clear walking space for your diameter. For instance, if you choose a 5'0" diameter, open your door exactly 26". This 26" represents the clear walking space you would get with our smallest 5'0" stair. Use the chart on the previous page as a guide to determine what the most comfortable walking space is for you and your guests. This can help you narrow down your diameter measurements if you're having difficulty. Generally speaking, a stair with a diameter of 5' or larger is going to be very comfortable for your application.

Spiral stair building code requires your stair to have at least a 5' diameter. Our 5', 5'6" and 6' code package stairs will meet code in many states across the nation. Now that you know a little more about spiral stair diameters, check out our building code page to learn more about code requirements of your spiral stair.

If you have any additional questions about your stair's diameter or building code, call one of our consultative designers for expert answers!

How much space does a spiral staircase require?

One of the first questions that homeowners have when considering a spiral stair is, "How much space will I need to install a spiral stair?" There is not set space requirement, it all depends on your unique space needs.

Your spiral stair's footprint is another way of saying the amount of space the staircase will take up in your outdoor space. Because your stair's diameter is the total width of your stair, it will also determine the footprint. The smallest spiral stair diameter that we offer is 5'0", which translates to a 62" x 62" footprint. From here, the footprint will increase in 6" increments like the diameters.

Determining your spiral stair's footprint can help you find the best size spiral staircase for your design. Often times, a customer wants to tuck their spiral stair into a corner against the house to maximize their space and isn't sure how much space they truly have for their stair.

If you think a 5'0" stair is the right fit for your space, mark a 62 inch by 62 inch space on the ground. The area that you mark will essentially be the footprint of the stair and it will give you an accurate idea of how the stair will fit in your space.

For any additional questions, feel free to call one of our consultative designers. They can help you find the best stair for your space and help you through the entire design process.

What determines how my spiral stair rotates?

When people think about spiral stairs, they picture a full spiral. However, not every spiral stair completes a full rotation! The rotation of your spiral staircase is dependent upon your finished floor-to-finished floor height.

Spiral stair building code calls for 30 degree treads. This means that each tread rotates 30 degrees around the center column. After you've found your floor to floor height, your consultative designer can help you find the right number of individual steps on your staircase. Take this number and multiply it by 30. For instance, if you have 12 steps, or treads, you will have a full 360 degree rotation.

Rotation Reference	
# of Treads	Rotation
9 Treads	270°
10 Treads	300°
11 Treads	330°
12 Treads	360°
13 Treads	390°

Once you've measured your floor to floor height, call one of our stair designers find the number of steps that will work in your space. All you need is one measurement to start your project! If you have your measurement but no time for a call, fill out our quick form for one of our designers to call back later. You can give us your measurements and some basic facts about your project. Our consultative designers will call you at a time that's convenient for you.

How easy is it to install a spiral staircase?

Installing a spiral stair may seem like an intimidating task, but our spiral staircase models make it an easy weekend project. Once your spiral stair is ready to be shipped to your location, our shipping company will call to schedule the best time for you. We ship our stairs in kit form meaning all of the individual parts of your stair are broken down and wrapped to make shipping and handling easier. Once you have all of the parts laid out for installation you are ready to begin the process. Our Paragon spiral stairs go together easily with each piece fitting into place.

Our customers range from experienced contractors to do it yourself homeowners, but they all can install their spiral stair themselves.

How do I know what I'm buying will actually fit in my space?

When you're buying something as big as a staircase, you may be nervous about our designers never seeing the physical space. Our stair experts are dedicated to making sure your dream spiral staircase will fit your space perfectly. One way we ensure the right fit for your space is using AutoCAD as a part of our design process.

AutoCAD is a computer program that allows our designers to produce a digital rendering of your spiral stair in your space. We work off of your pictures, measurements, and anything else you can give us. Once we have a picture of your space we will do an online design meeting with you and show you how your stair will be custom built for your space. We do not give you a generic stair that may or may not fit your space – we build your stair your way and let you pick all of the options.

You can watch our designers draw your stair live from home right on your computer screen. Once we are both satisfied that the design meets your needs, we will send the design to the shop where everything is cut and fabricated to your exact specifications.

Our unique consultative design process gives our partners a one of a kind customer experience.

Do I need to meet building code requirements?

All Paragon models are designed to meet or exceed building code requirements, so you don't have to worry about compliance. Whether or not your project requires building code approval, Paragon Stairs offer the same structural integrity and safety.

If your project does require code compliance—such as when pulling permits, undergoing inspections, or when the spiral stair is the primary access point—we have you covered. Paragon spiral stairs can be customized to meet any additional local requirements, ensuring a smooth approval process. For any specific code requirements in your area, our team is here to help you navigate and customize your stair to meet them.

