

Plan Review Guidance for Sun Shelves with Adjoining Stairs

Pools with stairs in the shallow end require at least one handrail to serve all treads and risers.

For safety, when the only stairs serving the shallow end of a pool are adjoining a sun shelf, there should be a handrail leading from the deck to the sun shelf since the step from the deck to the sun shelf is acting as the first riser for the only set of steps.

Moving forward for new construction, if plans indicate that a sun shelf with adjoining stairs is to be the only set of steps, then at least one handrail must be provided from the deck onto the sun shelf **OR** another set of stairs with an approved handrail from the deck must be added.

The width of the sun shelf should not be used to determine the number or spacing of handrails leading from the deck to a sun shelf.

For existing pools without a handrail leading from the deck to a sun shelf with adjoining stairs, and where there is not another set of steps into the shallow end of the pool with an approved handrail, this is considered a construction violation item, marked under #11. This is a two-point demerit item that would not require permit action.

1: 15A NCAC 18A .2521 LADDERS, RECESSED STEPS, AND STAIRS (b)(3) Each set of stairs shall be provided with at least one handrail to serve all treads and risers. For stairs wider than 20 feet, additional handrails shall be provided and spaced no more than 10 feet from adjacent handrails or stair ends.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your Regional Specialist.

This guidance replaces any guidance given in previous written or verbal communications.