

# 2021 Washington State Residential Code

## SECTION R202 – DEFINITIONS

**[W] CHILD CARE, FAMILY HOME.** A child care facility, licensed by Washington state, located in the dwelling of the person or persons under whose direct care and supervision the child is placed, for the care of sixteen or fewer children, including children who reside at the home.

## [W] SECTION R331 - FAMILY HOME CHILD CARE

**R331.1 Family home childcare.** For *family home childcare* with more than six children, each floor level used for family child care purposes shall be served by two remote means of egress. Exterior exit doors shall be operable from the inside without the use of keys or any special knowledge or effort.

Basements located more than 4 feet (1219 mm) below grade level shall not be used for family home child care unless one of the following conditions exist:

1. Stairways from the basement open directly to the exterior of the building without entering the first floor; or
2. One of the two required means of egress discharges directly to the exterior from the basement level, and a self-closing door is installed at the top or bottom of the interior stair leading to the floor above; or
3. One of the two required means of egress is an operable window or door, approved for emergency escape or rescue, that opens directly to a public street, public alley, yard or exit court; or
4. An automatic residential sprinkler system shall be designed and installed in accordance with Section P2904 or NFPA 13D

Floors located more than 4 feet above grade level shall not be occupied by children in *family home child care*.

Exceptions:

1. Use of toilet facilities while under supervision of an adult staff person.
2. *Family home child care* may be allowed on the second story if one of the following conditions exists:
  - 2.1. Stairways from the second story open directly to the exterior of the building without entering the first floor; or
  - 2.2. One of the two required means of egress discharges directly to the exterior from the second story level, and a self-closing door is installed at the top or bottom of the interior stair leading to the floor below; or
  - 2.3. An automatic residential sprinkler system shall be designed and installed in accordance with Section P2904 or NFPA 13D

Every sleeping or napping room in a *family home child care* shall have at least one operable window for emergency rescue.

Exception: Sleeping or napping rooms having doors leading to two separate means of egress, or a door leading directly to the exterior of the building.

Rooms or spaces containing a commercial-type cooking kitchen, boiler, maintenance shop, janitor, closet, laundry, woodworking shop, flammable or combustible storage, or painting operation shall be separated from the family home child care area by at least one-hour fire-resistance-rated construction.

Exception: A fire-resistance-rated separation is not required where the food preparation kitchen contains only a domestic cooking range, and the preparation of food does not result in the production of smoke or grease-laden vapors.

Smoke alarms and heat detectors shall be installed in accordance with the requirements of new construction per IRC 314. Provide an additional heat detector in each kitchen.

**R331.2 Additional Requirements for *Family home child care with thirteen to sixteen children.*** In addition to the requirements of Section R331.1, the provisions of this section shall apply to *family home child care with thirteen to sixteen children.*

**R331.2.1 Illumination in the event of a power supply failure.** In addition to illumination requirements of R311.7.9, provide an artificial light source that activates upon termination of building power supply at all interior stairs serving child care areas.

**R331.2.2** Exterior exit doors serving child care areas shall comply with the requirements of R311.2 and R311.3.

**R331.2.3~~2~~ Sprinklers** An automatic residential sprinkler system shall be designed and installed in accordance with Section P2904 or NFPA 13D.

**Exception:** Subject to approval of the *code official*, a sprinkler system is not required where all of the following conditions are met:

- 1.** Childcare areas are located on a floor within 4 feet of grade level, and
- 2.** Each childcare area shall have a door compliant with R311.2 and R311.3-leading directly to the exterior of the building.