# "YOUR SAFETY IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY"

## FIRE ESCAPE REPAIR, CLEANING AND PAINTING

The following information specifies the methods to be used in correcting deficiencies that have been noted on your fire escape(s). These repairs must be completed as soon as practical to ensure the continued safe use of these exiting systems. Cleaning and painting may be delayed upon written request. The following is provided by this office to assist you in expediting the repairs, cleaning and painting:

1. **REPAIRS**
   - A permit from the Bureau of Development Services (BDS) shall be required for replacing structural components (knee bracing and connections to the building), replacing major sections of the fire escape (a flight of stairs, a length of the firefighter's ladder, a section of railing, a section of a platform) or when a significant amount of welding occurs. All repair work shall be done under the supervision of a registered design professional.
   - A permit is not required for minor repairs, such as removing paint and rust, replacing bolts, nuts, rivets, incidental welding, like for like replacement of a minimal number of steel components that are not major load bearing elements (floor slats, stair treads, railing pieces). Minor repairs shall be addressed in the following ways:
     a) **BOLTS/NUTS**: If used in the replacement of existing or missing nuts/bolts/rivets, they shall be stainless steel, minimum 3/8" diameter and of appropriate length. These specifications ensure both the strength and resistance to rust for years to come.
     b) **WELDING**: Welding on fire escapes shall completed by a person holding a current American Welding Society (AWS) certification for the type of welding that is being done.

*Prior to cleaning and painting, contact your Fire Inspector for a re-inspection.*

2. **CLEANING** the fire escape(s) prior to painting is an extremely important step. Studies show that paint applied to a surface prepared using hand tools (scrapers, grinders, wire wheels, etc.) will survive for approximately 2.3 years, while the same paint applied following preparation by sandblasting will last about 10.3 years. NOTE: Precautions shall be taken when working with lead based paint.
3. **PAINTING** your fire escape(s) preserves the integrity of the joining systems. Paint may be applied using brush, roller, or spray and shall be applied to all surfaces.
   Paint coatings shall be one of the following:
   A. One (1) coat of **IRON OXIDE PRIMER,** followed by one (1) coat of **ALKYD ENAMEL FINISH** (or)
   B. One (1) coat of **"HAMMERITE"** brand paint, (0r)
   C. One (1) coat of **Valspar "VAL-CHEM EPOXY MASTIC 75-W-9W"** (or)
   D. Alternative coatings of paints equivalent to "B" or "C" upon approval by this office.

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