



SECURITY SCREENS & FALL PREVENTION

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FALL PREVENTION

The National Construction Code (NCC) requires protection for openable windows in new early childhood centers, and in bedrooms of new residential buildings (i.e. houses, apartments, hotels and the like), where the floor below the window is more than 2m above the surface beneath, and additionally in all windows where the potential fall is four meters or more. The NCC refers to the Australian Standards 5203 Protection of Openable Windows/Fall Prevention - Test Sequence and Compliance Method.

Additionally, as of March 2018, NSW Department of Fair Trading mandated the use of fall prevention methods taken from the NCC in their Strata Schemes Management Regulation, this relates to all Strata title buildings.

The intent of these requirements is to limit the risk of a person, (especially a young child), falling through an openable window. There are two protection methods approved for this purpose; a hardware restricter, which restricts the window from opening further than 125mm or a fall prevention screen.



Fall Prevention Applications:

Being able to open your windows for ventilation, and to reduce the need for air conditioning, is preferred by most Australian homeowners.

There are two types of screens suitable for fall prevention applications:

1. Security screens - that have been tested and are compliant to Australian Standards AS 5039, are deemed to pass AS 5203 requirements and do not require testing.
2. Non security screens – these screens must either have been type tested, or if they have not been, they must be tested on-site using a specialised test kit to ensure they meet AS 5203.

For peace of mind, service and advice when purchasing fall prevention screens, look for a member of the National Security Screen Association.

An increasing number of children are admitted to hospital each year as a result from falling from windows or balconies. These falls are often in their own home and can result in serious injury or death.

Falls occur more often in the warmer months when families leave windows and doors to balconies open. Children aged from one to five years are most at risk as they are naturally curious, but lack the ability to recognise danger.

Keep your little ones safe, contact a member of the NSSA to discuss your needs.

