



## How to Measure a Rough Opening

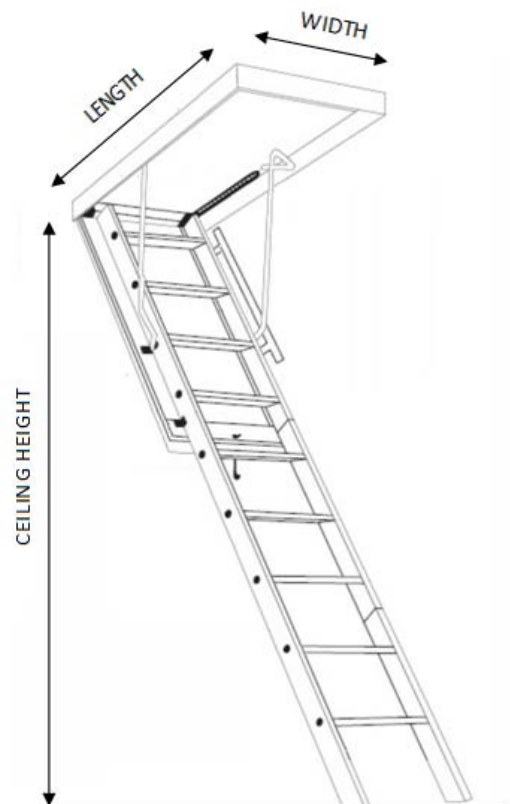
The rough opening is defined as the size of the opening that you will need to mount the attic stairway inside.

Follow the steps below:

1. If there is an existing stairway take a tape measure and measure the distance from the outside to outside of the box framing. (Measure the Length and Width.) DO NOT measure the inside of the opening doing this will only give you the inside dimensions of the box frame and not a true rough opening dimension.
2. If you do not have an existing opening determine where you will place the stair and the orientation in the space. In order to do this you need to know what kind of ceiling structure you have. (A beam ceiling or a truss ceiling and in which direction they are oriented) It is also useful to know that if you have any electrical fixtures in the area where you plan on installing the stairway to be aware of where these are running.
3. If you have a beam ceiling, beams can be cut to accommodate any size stairway you wish to put in the area. Beams will need to be headed off with a boxed-in area with material in equal size to the existing beams.
4. If you have a truss ceiling the stairway opening needs to fit between the trusses. If you desire to have larger opening stairway you will need to

consult with a professional contractor regarding cutting trusses. **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CUT EXISTING TRUSSES WITHOUT CONSULTING A PROFESSIONAL.**

5. The list of rough opening sizes of Century attic stairways are the recommended opening sizes for the proper fit of the stairways. You can have a larger rough opening size than the stairway you pick, however you must shim in the opening. It is not recommended that you put a stairway into a smaller opening than is listed.



**Figure 1** \*\*Picture may not depict actual stairway\*\*

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