



Integrity Of Exits

The Building Standards Department issues Builder Tips as part of our customer service program. They are designed to provide an improved understanding of the Building Code and to reduce the costs associated with correcting infractions. Please contact your area building inspector for further information or call the Building Standards Department at 905.475.4848 extension 2189

3.4.4.4. Integrity of Exits

(1) A fire separation that separates an exit from the remainder of the building shall have no openings except for

- (a) standpipe and sprinkler piping,
- (b) electrical wires and cables, totally enclosed noncombustible raceways and noncombustible piping that serve only the exit,
- (c) openings required by the provisions of Subsection 3.2.6.,
- (d) exit doorways,
- (e) wired glass and glass block permitted by Article 3.1.8.16., and
- (f) a sprinkler protected glazed wall assembly conforming to Article 3.1.8.20.

(2) Exits within scissors stairs and other contiguous exit stairways shall be separated from each other by a smoke-tight fire separation having a fire-resistance rating not less than that required for the floor assembly through which they pass.

(3) Fire separations separating contiguous stairs described in Sentence (2) shall not be pierced by doorways, ductwork, piping or any other openings that affect the continuity of the separation.

(4) A fuel-fired appliance shall not be installed in an exit.

(5) An exit shall not be used as a plenum for a heating, ventilating or air-conditioning system.

(6) An exit shall be designed for no purpose other than for exiting, except that an exit is permitted also to be designed to serve as an access to a floor area.

(7) A service room shall not open directly into an exit.

(8) Storage rooms, washrooms, toilet rooms, laundry rooms and similar ancillary rooms shall not open directly into an exit.



(9) Service spaces referred to in Sentence 3.2.1.1.(8) shall not open directly into an exit.

(10) In elementary and secondary schools, an exit shall be designed so that it does not serve access from one portion of a floor area to another portion of the same floor area.

OBJECTIVE

An exit is required to be separated from the remainder of the building and only the penetrations listed below are permitted within this separation:

- (a) standpipe and sprinkler piping,
- (b) electrical wires and cables, totally enclosed noncombustible raceways and noncombustible piping that serve only the exit,
- (c) openings required by the provisions of Subsection 3.2.6.,
- (d) exit doorways,
- (e) wired glass and glass block permitted by Article 3.1.8.14., and
- (f) a sprinkler protected glazed wall assembly conforming to Article 3.1.8.20.

No penetration is permitted through a fire separation between contiguous exit stairways.

Use of an exit as a plenum for heating, ventilation or air-conditioning is not permitted.

An exit shall be designed for exiting only; as an exception, it can be designed to serve as and access to a floor area. In an elementary or secondary school, an exit cannot serve as an access from one point of a floor area to another portion of the same floor area.

An exit cannot contain an occupancy.

A direct opening from service or ancillary rooms, such as storage rooms, washrooms and laundry rooms is not permitted. These types of rooms may be accessed from exit through a vestibule although access to two exits may still be required for these rooms by Article 3.4.2.1.

