



References (s): 2012 IFC 1003; 2012 NFPA 101/7.1.3.1-7.1.10, 18.2, 19.2

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The International Building Code and International Fire Code have specific requirements for corridor construction, width, and maintenance to ensure safe and efficient building evacuation and navigation during emergencies and everyday use.

One of the most frequently cited issues noted by the Office of the State Fire Marshal inspectors is the obstruction of corridors. Fire and building codes are clear...

Obstructions shall not be placed in the required width of a means of egress

This includes movable items such as furniture, plants, TV/VCR carts, recycling containers, trash cans, clothing, etc. Even if these items were stored outside of the required corridor width, these items could get pushed and moved during a panic situation and become tripping hazards.

Additionally, storage of anything on stairs and stair landings is prohibited.

The following depicts the minimum corridor width that must be maintained clear with absolutely no obstructions:

Colleges.....	3ft 6 in
K-12	6 ft
Existing Healthcare	4 ft *
New Healthcare.....	8 ft *

* Certain provisions for furnishings and items in corridor are specified in 2012 NFPA 101 18/19.2.11, 18/19.2.1, 7.1.10.1 and 18/19.2.3.4-5 exceptions

Corridors may be fire rated or smoke resistive to protect the occupants from other areas of the building while evacuating. Consult your code footprint or an architect to confirm the rating of any corridor. The facility must assure that any remodeling, hardware or door replacement maintains the required ratings.