

**NC Department of Insurance
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division
1202 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1202
919-661-5880**

Whirlpool Bathtubs Pump Access

Code: 2012 Plumbing Code
Section: 421.5

Date: September 1, 2011

Question:

Is access to the whirlpool bathtub pump required for repair and removal ?

Answer:

Yes, the Plumbing Code states access shall be provided to the pump. An access door large enough to remove the motor and/or pump shall be provided at the side or end of the whirlpool bathtub (clearance of 21" minimum in front of the access door). The access maybe through a cabinet (double doors with no stile) and/or from below the whirlpool bathtub in a basement or crawl space (travel path to the access to the whirlpool bathtub shall be a minimum height of 24" in the crawl space).

Per the 2009 Plumbing Code: "where the manufacturer's instructions do not specify the location and minimum size of field-fabricated access openings, a 12-inch by 12-inch minimum sized opening shall be installed to provide access to the circulation pump. Where pumps are located more than 2 feet from the access opening, an 18-inch by 18-inch minimum sized opening shall be installed. A door or panel shall be permitted to close the opening. In all cases, the access opening shall be unobstructed and of the size necessary to permit the removal and replacement of the circulation pump."