

**NC Department of Insurance  
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**Lavatory Sidewall Clearance, Residential**

**Code:** 2018 Residential Plumbing Code

**Date:** March 22, 2019

**Sections:** R307.1

**Question:**

What is the correct clearance from the center of a lavatory to a side wall in one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses?

**Answer:**

There are no limits indicated in the NC Residential Code.

Section 405.3.1 of the NC Plumbing Code states in part;

***405.3.1 Water closets, urinals, lavatories and bidets.** A water closet, urinal, lavatory or bidet shall not be set closer than 15 inches (381 mm) from its center to any side wall, partition, vanity or other obstruction, or closer than 30 inches (762 mm) center-to-center between adjacent fixtures.....*

***Exception:** For one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses, see the North Carolina Residential Code.*

Because of the exception the minimum fixture installation clearance figure R307.1 should be used for lavatory installation. Figure R307.1 does not dictate a specific sidewall clearance to the center of the lavatory. This interpretation only applies to one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses constructed under the NC Residential Code.

**Keywords:**