

Safe Doors* ● ● ● *Door Swing

The direction and amount of door swing are both important factors in planning for safety. Doors opening into traffic flow areas are potentially hazardous to the unsuspecting individual walking by as the door is opened from within. He may collide with the edge of the door as it swings into his path, or the full area of the door could be moved into his path as he approaches from the other direction.

A door which swings open over a flight of stairs is hazardous and may cause a fall down the stairs. Doors planned for access to stairs should open away from the stairs if possible; but, in the event a door must swing over a stair, provisions must be made to incorporate a stair landing at this point (see Series on Stairs).

Door-swing planning should prescribe that doors swing open a minimum of 90 degrees to allow the fullest possible use of the door opening while furnishings are being moved. Doors should ideally swing into a room and preferably against a wall when completely open.

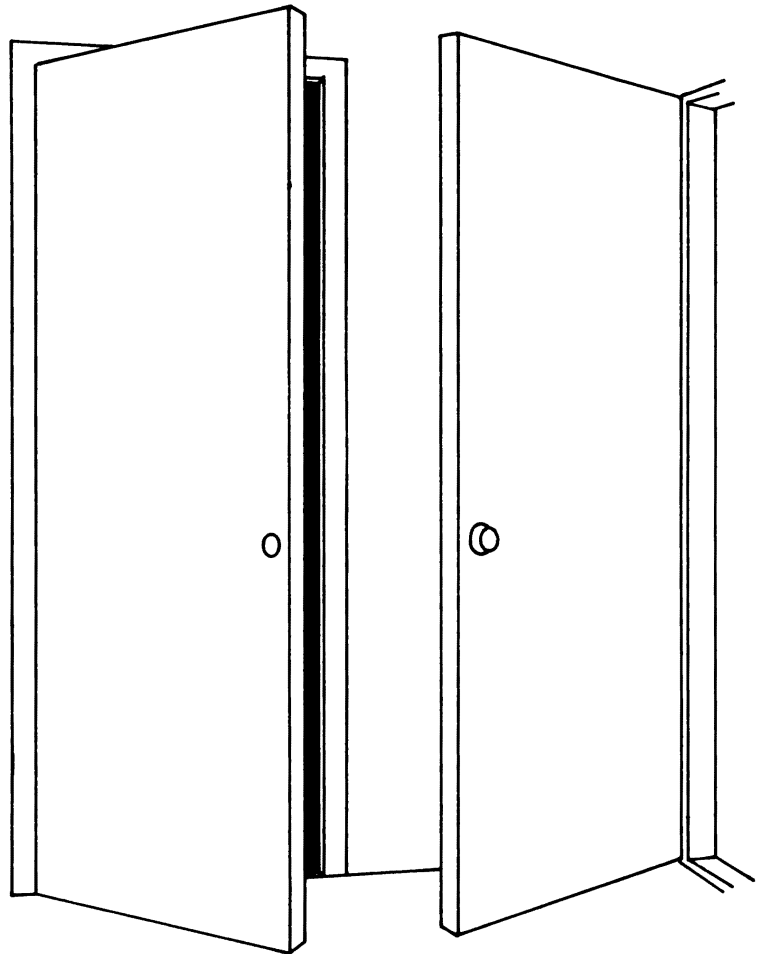
The location and operating functions of doors in close proximity to each other are important safety considerations in planning. Doors should be positioned so that no two doors will make physical contact with each other or create a hazardous restriction to traffic when both are open at the same time. The results of poor planning which allows conflicting or interfering door-swing conditions often occur at entrance doors and cloak closets; at bathroom doors and linen closets or bathroom fixtures;

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Doors should be positioned so that no two doors will contact each other when open, or create a hazardous condition when both open at the same time.

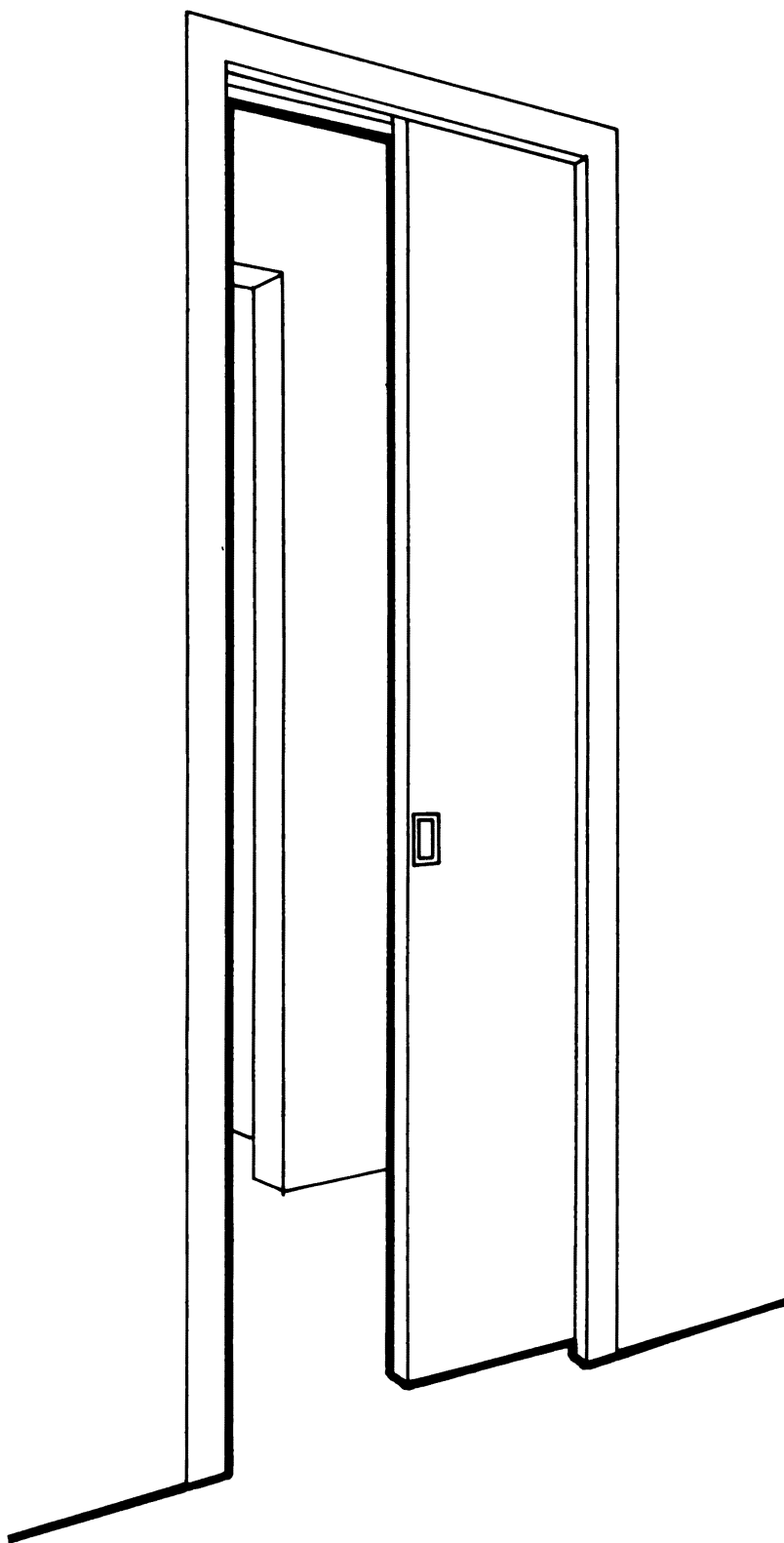


at kitchen entrances and cabinets or appliances; at bedroom doors and closets; and in the proximity of stairs and stair landings. Therefore, doors should be planned so that they do not swing against or otherwise interfere with an individual engaged in a normal activity within close proximity of the door swing. In many instances which necessitate the location of two or more doors close to each other, the use of sliding pocket doors or folding doors may solve the problem satisfactorily, from the safety-in-use standpoint. In some cases, however, it may become necessary to redraw the plans to avoid a hazardous door-placement condition.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The following alternatives and recommendations are presented as means of reducing the probability of accidents caused by poor door-swing planning:

- Generally, doors shall be planned so as to swing into a room, preferably against a wall when fully open.
- Doors shall swing open at least 90 degrees to allow full use of the door opening.
- Door-swing shall allow the conduct of normal activities within the proximity of the door, without restriction or interference.
- Door-swing planning shall prescribe that no two doors contact each other when either or both are in use.
- Adequately dimensioned landings shall be provided at those locations requiring doors to swing open over a flight of stairs (See Series on Stairs).
- Door-swing planning shall be reviewed from the standpoint of potential interference hazards related to anticipated future activities.
- If necessary to effect a safer finished-door swing condition, the floor plan shall be rearranged, the direction of door swing should be changed, or folding, sliding, or pocket doors shall be placed in locations which pose hazardous interference problems.



Sliding doors may solve the conflicting door swing problem in many instances when doors must be positioned close to each other.

Before building, consult the BOCA code.

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