

EXITS AND SEPARATIONS REQUIRED

The State of Minnesota Building Code has certain requirements for building separations, occupancy limits, and the amount of exits required based on the type of occupancy that you will have in the building (restaurant, department store, clinic, etc.). Most applications in the downtown district will require design by a licensed professional, and to determine this, please contact the Building Department.

Building Separations

The table below breaks down the different occupancies, and the required separation from other occupancies. Typical occupancies that will be located in the downtown district are A-Assembly (restaurants, coffee shops, Bars/Nightclubs), B-Business (Business offices, outpatient clinics, beauty shops, banks), M-Mercantile (department stores, sales rooms, markets), and R-Residential (Apartments, Condos):

**TABLE 508.3.3
REQUIRED SEPARATION OF OCCUPANCIES (HOURS)**

OCCUPANCY	A ^a , E		I		R ^d		F-2, S-2 ^{c,d} , U ^d		B ^b , F-1, M ^b , S-1		H-1		H-2		H-3, H-4, H-5	
	S	NS	S	NS	S	NS	S	NS	S	NS	S	NS	S	NS	S	NS
A ^a , E ^a	N	N	1	2	1	2	N	1	1	2	NP	NP	3	4	2	3 ^a
I	—	—	N	N	1	NP	1	2	1	2	NP	NP	3	NP	2	NP
R ^d	—	—	—	—	N	N	1	2	1	2	NP	NP	3	NP	2	NP
F-2, S-2 ^{c,d} , U ^d	—	—	—	—	—	—	N	N	1	2	NP	NP	3	4	2	3 ^a
B ^b , F-1, M ^b , S-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	N	N	NP	NP	2	3	1	2 ^a
H-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	N	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP
H-2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	N	NP	1	NP
H-3, H-4, H-5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	N	NP

For SI: 1 square foot = 0.0929 m².

S = Buildings equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1.

NS = Buildings not equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1.

N = No separation requirement.

NP = Not permitted.

a. For Group H-5 occupancies, see Section 903.2.4.2.

b. Occupancy separation need not be provided for storage areas within Groups B and M if the:

1. Area is less than 10 percent of the floor area;
2. Area is equipped with an automatic fire-extinguishing system and is less than 3,000 square feet; or
3. Area is less than 1,000 square feet.

c. Areas used only for private or pleasure vehicles shall be allowed to reduce separation by 1 hour.

d. See Section 406.1.4.

e. Commercial kitchens need not be separated from the restaurant seating areas that they serve.