

Laundry Room Floor Drains

Question:

Are floor drains required in *all* laundry rooms cited in Section 411.2.3 of the 2006 Uniform Plumbing Code, regardless of the number of washing machines?

Answer:

The UPC provides little guidance on this issue. However, since Section 411.2.1 stipulates that a floor drain is not required in a toilet room until there are two or more water closets, I believe it is reasonable to transfer this logic to washing machines and drains in laundry rooms as well.

Using Section 411.2.1 as a precedent I believe it would exceed the intent of the UPC to require a floor drain in any laundry room that houses fewer than TWO (2) washing machines.

The fact that Section 411.2 does not require floor drains in single-family occupancies with washing machines (one appliance) further suggests that a single machine does not warrant installation of a floor drain.

In summary, without information to the contrary I believe that a reasonable interpretation of the intent of the UPC would be to require floor drains when there are two or more washing machines within an enclosure, which would be consistent with the requirement that two or more water closets in a toilet room trigger the need for installation of a floor drain. This interpretation certainly does not preclude the installation of additional floor drains at the discretion of the design professional, whether they be in a single water closet toilet room, or a single washing machine laundry room.

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