



Building Services
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**BUILD-20
Fire-Stopping in
Dwelling Unit
Separations**

Fire stopping **will not** be required in rated walls that do not require rated doors or windows, i.e., protected openings.

2003 IBC 712 requires fire stopping of through and membrane penetrations in all fire-rated walls, with some exceptions. The previous code only required fire stopping in these walls when opening protection was required, such as occupancy separation walls, area separation walls, rated corridors, etc.

In fire-rated buildings, rated doors and windows are not required in all walls, only walls where opening protection is required, so it makes sense not to require fire stopping in a wall that could have unlimited unprotected openings otherwise. IRC 317.1 and IBC require that the walls and floors separating dwelling units be one-hour construction.