

**CHAPTER 3
BUILDING PLANNING**

**SECTION R302.1
IRC Interpretation No. 17-04
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R302.1 Exterior walls. Exterior walls with a fire separation distance less than 3 feet (914 mm) shall have not less than a one-hour fire-resistive rating with exposure from both sides. Projections shall not extend to a point closer than 2 feet (610 mm) from the line used to determine the fire separation distance.

Exception: Detached garages accessory to a dwelling located within 2 feet of a lot line shall be permitted to have roof eave projections not exceeding 4 inches.

Projections extending into the fire separation distance shall have not less than one-hour fire-resistive construction on the underside. The above provisions shall not apply to walls which are perpendicular to the line used to determine the fire separation distance.

Exception: Tool and storage sheds, playhouses and similar structures exempted from permits by R105.2 are not required to provide wall protection based on location on the lot. Projections beyond the exterior wall shall not extend over the lot line.



Q: Do the requirements in Section R302.1 for projections apply to exterior balconies and decks as defined in Section R202?

A: Yes. Exterior balconies and decks that are attached to the building but not under roof are considered projections. Exterior balconies, decks and porches that are attached and under roof are considered to be a part of the primary building structure. Section 302.1 regulates projections into the fire separation distance. Projections can not extend more than 12 inches (305 mm) into this area. In addition, projections that do extend into an area where walls are required to be of one-hour fire-resistive construction must be protected on the underside with one-hour fire-resistive construction.

