

CHAPTER 6 WALL CONSTRUCTION

SECTION R602.10.1.2
2015 Edition
IRC Interpretation No. 14-18
Issued: 3-7-2019
RE_15_14_18

R602.10.1.2 Offsets along a braced wall line.

Exterior walls parallel to a *braced wall line* shall be offset not more than 4 feet (1219 mm) from the designated *braced wall line* location as shown in Figure R602.10.1.1. Interior walls used as bracing shall be offset not more than 4 feet (1219 mm) from a *braced wall line* through the interior of the building as shown in Figure R602.10.1.1.



Q: Can an “imaginary” braced wall line be located up to 4 feet from any exterior physical wall, with or without offsets, even if doing so results in reduced braced wall line spacing?

A: Yes.

Wall construction must include bracing to resist imposed lateral loads resulting from wind or seismic loading and to provide stability for the structure. A braced wall line represents the location of the lateral resistance provided by the wall bracing.

With respect to exterior walls with offsets, Section R602.10.1.2 is intended to allow the most efficient placement of the braced wall line between multiple physical walls. The designated brace wall line, in this case, is not required to be placed on a physical wall.

Similarly, while Section R602.10.1.2 doesn’t specifically address exterior walls without offsets, there is no specific requirement that the braced wall line be placed on a physical wall. As such, as depicted in the diagram, a braced wall line can be located up to 4 feet from any perimeter exterior wall without offsets.

