

## CONSTRUCTION TIP SHEET: RESIDENTIAL GARAGE SEPARATION

**This Tip Sheet reflects code requirements of the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code (MUBEC)**  
**Note- The intent of this Tip Sheet is to provide a general understanding of the code requirements and does not address the subject in great detail.**

### Code Language:

#### **R302.6 Dwelling-garage fire separation.**

The garage shall be separated as required by Table R302.6. Openings in garage walls shall comply with Section R302.5. Attachment of gypsum board shall comply with Table R702.3.5. The wall separation provisions of Table R302.6 shall not apply to garage walls that are perpendicular to the adjacent dwelling unit wall.

### Explanation of Code Language:

Numerous potential hazards exist within garages because occupants of dwelling units tend to store a variety of hazardous materials there. Along with this and the potential for Carbon Monoxide build-up within the garage, the code requires that the garage be separated from the dwelling unit and attic as indicated in Table R302.6. Garage walls and ceilings that do not form a separation from the dwelling unit are not required to be rated unless they are an extension of a rated assembly.

**Table R302.6  
 Dwelling-Garage Separation**

| Separation  | Material   |
|---|--|
| From the residence and attics   | Not less than ½-inch gypsum board or equivalent applied to the garage side   |
| From habitable rooms above the garage   | Not less than 5/8-inch Type X gypsum board or equivalent   |
| Structure(s) supporting floor/ceiling assemblies used for separation required by this section | Not less than ½-inch gypsum board or equivalent  |
| Garages located less than 3 feet from a dwelling unit on the same lot                         | Not less than ½-inch gypsum board or equivalent applied to the interior side of exterior walls that are within this area |

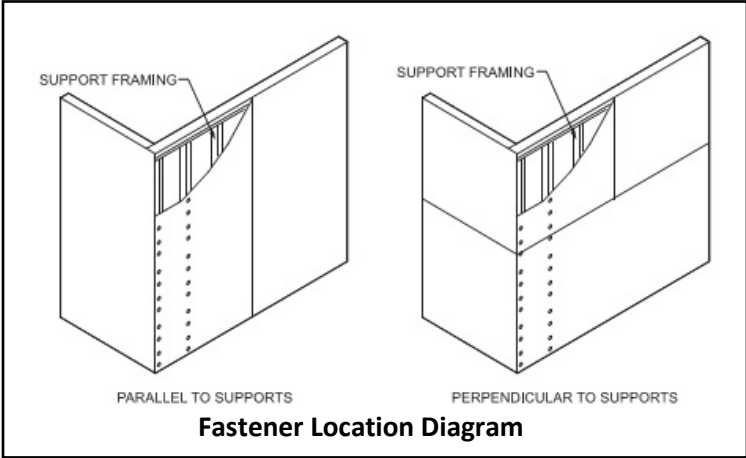
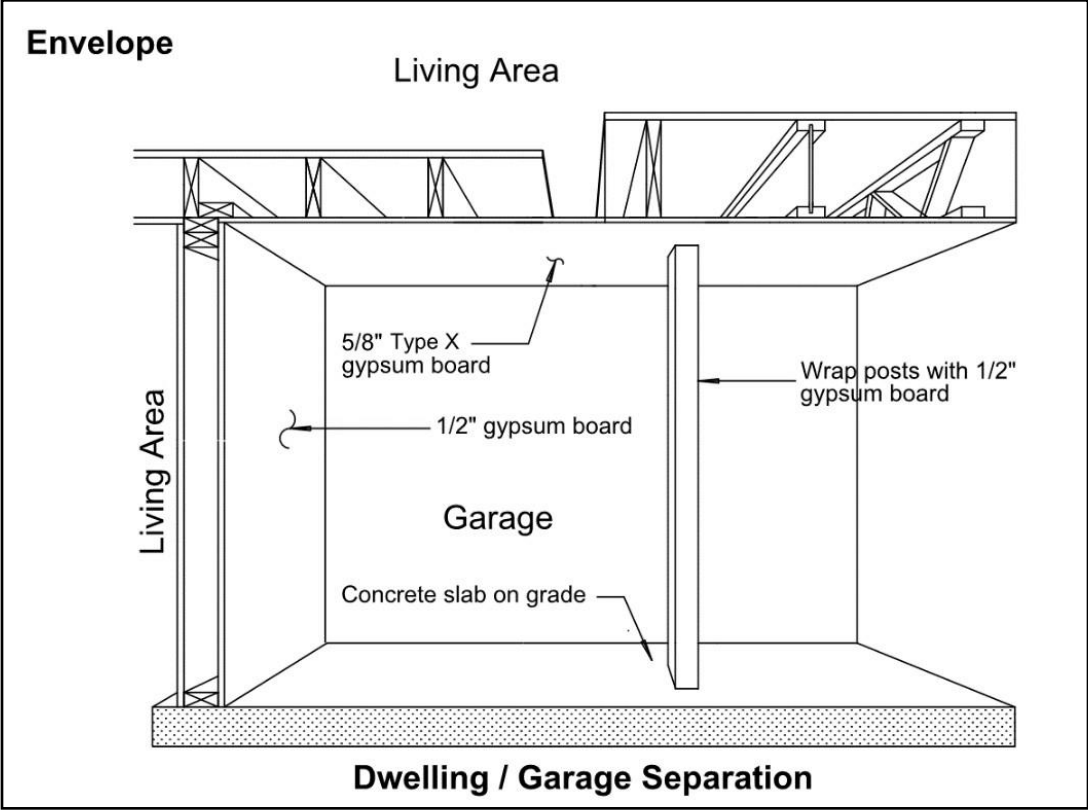
### Fastening Schedule per IRC Table R702.3.5:

#### **5/8-inch Type X Gypsum at Ceiling: (o.c. = on center)**

- Fasten with 6d cooler nails @ 6" o.c. or drywall screws @ 6" o.c. when framing is maximum 24" o.c.

#### **½-inch Gypsum Board at Walls:**

- Fasten with 5d cooler nails @ 8" o.c. or drywall screws @ 16" o.c. when framing is maximum 16" o.c.
- Fasten with 5d cooler nails @ 8" o.c. or drywall screws @ 12" o.c. when framing is maximum 24" o.c.



## Penetrations of the protected envelope:

### Duct Penetrations:

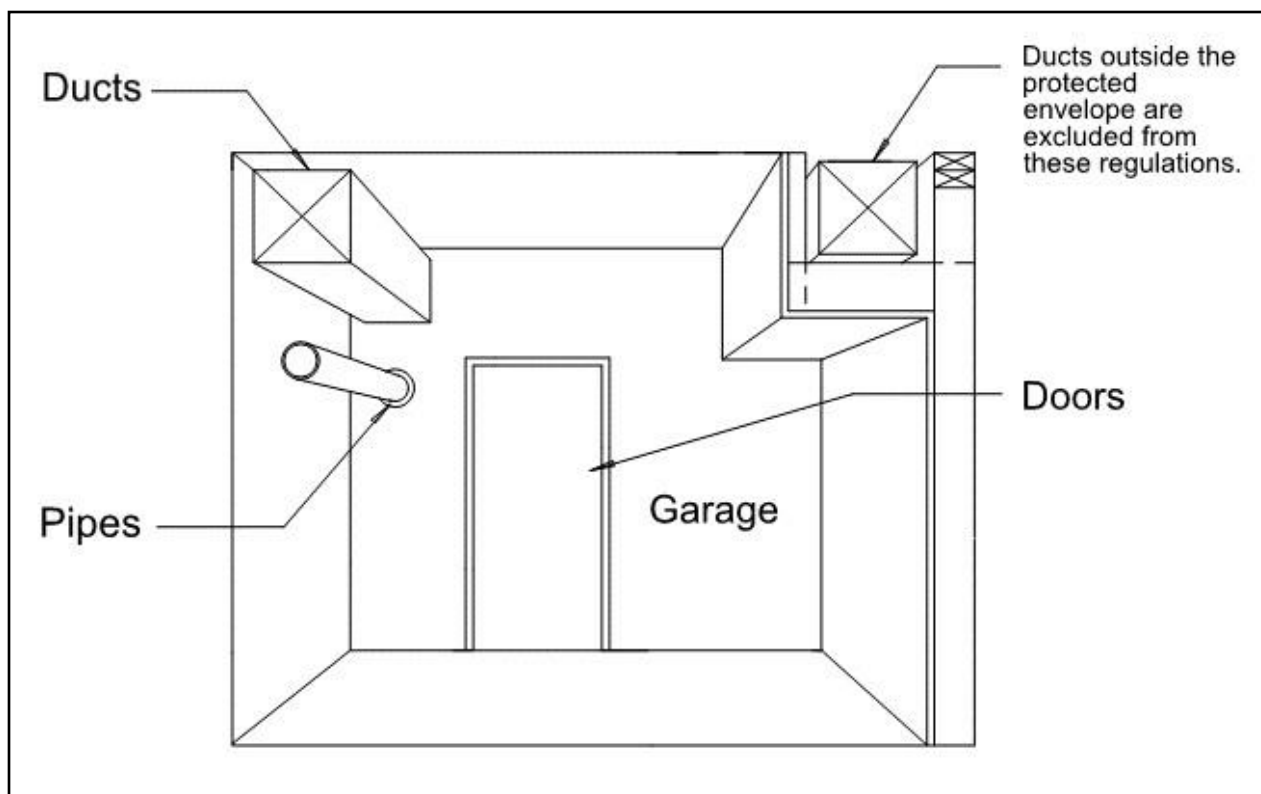
- R302.5.2- Ducts in the garage and ducts penetrating the walls or ceilings separating the dwelling from the garage shall be constructed of a minimum No. 26 gage (0.48 mm) sheet steel or other approved material and shall not have openings into the garage.

### Other Penetrations:

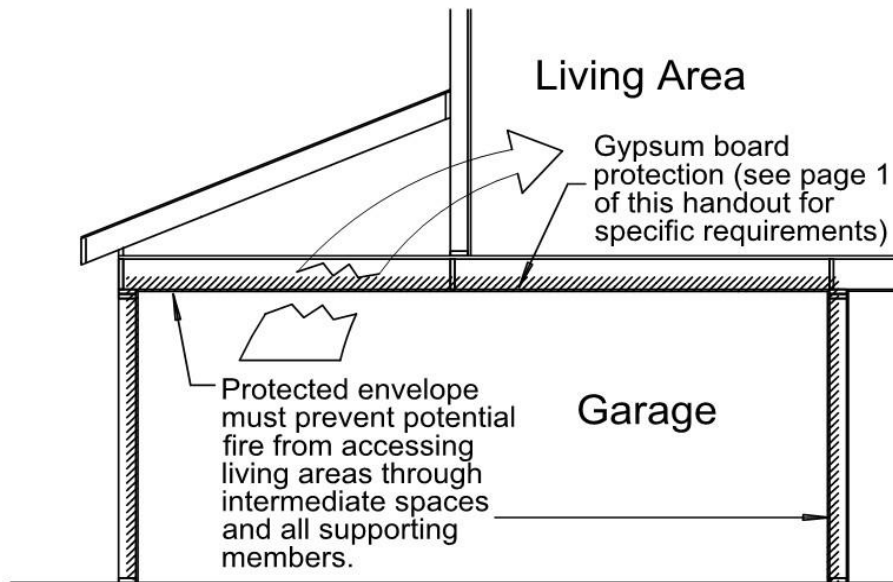
- R302.11 Fireblocking. Item 4- Penetrations through the required separation must be protected at openings around vents, pipes, ducts, cables and wires at ceiling and floor level, with an approved material to resist the free passage of flame and products of combustion. The material filling this annular space shall not be required to meet the ASTM E 136 requirements.

### Doors:

- Doors separating the garage and living spaces shall be 1-3/8" solid wood, solid or honeycomb core steel doors not less than 1-3/8" thick, or 20-minute rated doors. These doors shall also be equipped with a self-closing device. These doors shall not open into a sleeping room.



## Special Conditions



OR

