

House “Rules”

Use this checklist as a guide to planning your house. These “rules” are used with good reason and should only be broken when a greater advantage is gained.

General:

- All rooms have windows
- Guest areas (kitchen, living room, and dining room) are separate from private (bedrooms)
- Front entrance is usually close to the middle of the front of the house.
- Main door width 800 to 900mm and could be a double door or have side windows.
- Usually a closet near the front door and a linen closet near the bedrooms
- You must have a back door usually near kitchen
- All doors open into rooms
- Hallways are usually 1200mm wide and as short as possible
- For this project, we'll ignore utilities like the furnace and the hot water tank
- We'll draw exterior walls 200mm thick and interior walls 100mm thick

Bedrooms:

- Door is near a corner and swings towards the near wall (door width 700 to 800mm)
- All bedrooms have closets that do NOT project into room (keep room rectangular) – closets vary in width but are usually 600mm deep INSIDE with bi fold doors drawn as 'greater than' signs
- Not usually smaller than 3m X 4m with Master bedroom being larger

Bathrooms:

- Make sure there is space to walk in and get to toilet, bathtub, and counter
- 2 piece bath (also called ½ bath, or powder room) has only sink and toilet
- 3 piece bath has toilet, sink, and bath with shower
- 4 piece bath has separate tub and shower
- Ensuite bath is off of Master bedroom
- Try to make sure toilet isn't visible through the open door
- Door width is usually 600 to 700mm

Kitchen:

- Kitchen triangle is the triangle formed by the sink, stove, and fridge – try to avoid a flattened or small triangle
- There is usually a window behind the sink – no upper cabinets over sink
- The dishwasher is usually beside the sink and under the counter (dashed lines 600mm wide)
- A standard stove is 750mm wide
- Refrigerators vary in width, height, and depth but can be drawn similar to stoves
- Lower cabinets are 600mm deep and uppers (dashed lines) are 300mm deep
- Keep at least 1000 to 1200mm walking space between counters and island