

dimensioning | interiors drawings

UNDERSTANDING HYERARCHY

STRINGS from outermost to innermost dimension:

1. Overall dimensions (single dimension), CLOSED
2. From column grid to major interior construction elements, face or center line, CLOSED.
3. Building core, CLOSED.
4. Interior construction, OPEN (typical).

RECOMMENDATIONS

- INTERIOR construction is done in sequence, so dimension following the construction process.
- Start dimensioning from the building structure or an existing important element, like a column, interior building envelope face, existing partitions or shaftwalls, etc. For example, to indicate the location of a new partition, dimension it to the face of an existing column.
- Dimension what will be done first, usually framing, so typically partitions are dimensioned first, followed by the components that will be constructed later.
- Dimension lines of non-structural elements, or where dimensions are non-critical, are open at one dimension entry so the Contractor has room to adjust tolerances.
- In interiors projects in existing buildings, fix the location of new construction with dimensions to the existing construction to remain, for example, to indicate the location of a new partition, dimension it to the face of an existing column.
- When you have several components with equal dimensions lined together, in the first dimension line indicate the overall dimension, and then in second dimension line under the first one, **write down** the number of equal elements.
 - For example, indicate 20' in the first dimension line, and spell out "five equal spaces" in the second. Check that you the sum of your "equals" is the same as the overall dimension.
- Avoid noting dimensions so small that they cannot be achieved in the field, for example 2'-15/32". Typically, do not indicate dimensions smaller than 1/8" except in details, and then use them only when you know they are achievable in the field.

- Always reference your dimensions to the surrounding construction to fix the elements within the space.
- Dimension nonlinear elements completely, indicate shape and location. For example, when dimensioning an arc, dimension the radius of the circle but also the location of the center of the circle, and the location of the two ends of the arc. Add a note identifying the shape as an arc.
- Dimension inclined linear elements either by fixing two points, or by showing the inclination (angle), the starting point, and the length or finish point.
- Use recognizable terms when it is clearer than using numbers, for example "align".
- Dimension the critical parts of the project (for example, accessibility requirements, width of corridors and exits or other code required dimensions, and dimensions critical to accommodate furnishings or equipment, etc.) face to interior face and, if possible, note as CLR (clear).
- Avoid repeating dimensions in the same drawing, and if possible, in related drawings (from the overall floor plan to enlarged floor plans, etc.) unless it is needed for clarity.
- Do not dimension doors - these dimensions should be in the door schedule. If the door is adjacent to a room corner, do not dimension anything. If the door is not, dimension to one side of the opening only to position the door.
- Do not dimension thickness of partitions or walls; those dimensions should be in the inferred from the schedules or details.

The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, adapted from RTKL "GUIDE: Doc for Dimensioning"

Remember that to fix a point, you need at least two dimensions.

INTERIOR DIMENSIONS are given from FACE OF FINISH TO FACE OF FINISH

Do not dimension existing construction unless it necessary for some reason (for example, to indicate the width of existing exit corridors for permitting).