

TOWN OF JUPITER BUILDING DIVISION FIELD INSPECTION SERVICES

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REQUIRED ACCESS TO WHIRLPOOL TUB PUMPS

The 2007 Florida Building Code Residential with the 2009 supplements has specifically addressed the issue of access to pumps located underneath and behind whirlpool tubs. The text below is quoted from the Florida Building Code Residential.

SECTION P2720 WHIRLPOOL BATHTUBS

P2720.1 Access to pump. Access shall be provided to circulation pumps in accordance with the fixture manufacturer's installation instructions. Where the manufacturer's instructions do not specify the location and minimum size of field fabricated access openings, a 12-inch by 12-inch (304 mm by 304 mm) minimum size opening shall be installed to provide access to the circulation pump. Where pumps are located more than 2 feet (609 mm) from the access opening, an 18-inch by 18-inch (457 mm by 457 mm) minimum size opening shall be installed. A door or panel shall be permitted to close the opening. In all cases, the access opening shall be unobstructed and be of the size necessary to permit the removal and replacement of the circulation pump.

P2720.4 Manufacturer's instructions. The product shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions.

Where a pump is located in such a manner, that the access opening is located inside of a cabinet or other enclosure the distance to the pump shall be measured along the centerline from the outside of the cabinet or other enclosure to the pump.

By way of example: A common type of installation is a vanity installed adjacent to the whirlpool bathtub and a hole is cut thru the side of the vanity to access the pump under the tub.

The length of travel to the pump begins outside of the vanity and travels along the centerline of the vanity opening to the centerline of the opening under the tub and then makes a 90 degree turn and travels thru the opening in the side of the vanity to the pump under the tub.

If the total length is 24 inches or less then the vanity door and any other openings are not required to be larger than 12 inches by 12 inches.

If the total length is greater than 24 inches then the vanity door and all other openings are required to be a minimum of 18 inches by 18 inches.