

Calculating the Max Capacity of Your Space (Valid ONLY during the Covid-19 emergency)

Step 1 Do you have a Certificate of Occupancy or Maximum Capacity posting for your space? Max Capacity is listed on the card. If you do not proceed to Step 2 to determine Maximum Capacity during the Covid-19 emergency.

Step 2 Consider the use(s) in your space (See chart below for categories) and the corresponding square footage(s) per person. Remember there can be different uses in the same establishment:

Example 1: A retail store with 2,000 sf of showroom and 1,200 sf of storage area.

Example 2: A restaurant (Assembly use) with 1,500 sf of dining area (Fixed tables and booths or free moving tables and chairs), 200 sf of waiting area of standing space and 800 sf kitchen.

Step 3 Work the calculations:

- **Square footage of the use divided by the “Occupant Load Factor” = maximum capacity.**
- **Then divide by 2 to determine 50% of maximum capacity per the Governor’s emergency order**

Example 1:

Retail store showroom with 2,000 sf is divided by 60 sf (from the chart) = 33 max capacity, divide by 2 = 16 maximum capacity during the COVID-19 emergency order.

The 1,200 sf storage area is divided by 300 sf = 4, divide by 2 = 2 max capacity in storage area during COVID-19 emergency order.

Example 2:

Restaurant with 1,500 sf dining area of fixed tables and booths that seats 80 is divided by 2 = 40 max capacity during COVID-19 emergency order.

Restaurant with 1,500 sf dining area of movable tables and chairs is divided by 15 sf = 100 max capacity, divided by 2 = 50 max capacity during COVID-19 emergency order.

The standing waiting area of 200 sf divided by 5 sf = 40 max capacity, divide by 2 = 20 max capacity during COVID-19 emergency order.

The kitchen area of 800 sf is divided by 200 sf = 4 max capacity, divide by 2 = 2 max capacity during COVID-19 emergency order.

Two Caveats:

- If your space has only one exit you are limited to 49 people maximum, divided by 2 = 24 max capacity during COVID-19 emergency order.
- If your assembly space does not have a sprinkler system then you are limited to 99 people, divided by 2 = 49 max capacity during COVID-19 emergency order

Step 4 For further questions [click here](#), complete the form with your information from Step 2 and email to buildingplanreview@columbus.gov. A staff person will contact you within 24 hours.

**TABLE 1004.1.2
MAXIMUM FLOOR AREA ALLOWANCES PER OCCUPAN**

FUNCTION OF SPACE	OCCUPANT LOAD FACTOR*
Accessory storage areas, mechanical equipment room	300 gross
Agricultural building	300 gross
Aircraft hangars	500 gross
Airport terminal Baggage claim Baggage handling Concourse Waiting areas	20 gross 300 gross 100 gross 15 gross
Assembly Gaming floors (keno, slots, etc.) Exhibit gallery and museum	11 gross 30 net
Assembly with fixed seats	See Section 1004.4
Assembly without fixed seats Concentrated (chairs only—not fixed) Standing space Unconcentrated (tables and chairs)	7 net 5 net 15 net
Bowling centers, allow 5 persons for each lane including 15 feet of runway, and for additional areas	7 net
Business areas	100 gross
Courtrooms—other than fixed seating areas	40 net
Day care	35 net
Dormitories	50 gross
Vocational Classroom area Shops and other vocational room areas	20 net 50 net
Exercise rooms	50 gross

Group H-5 Fabrication and manufacturing areas	200 gross
Industrial areas	100 gross
Institutional areas	
Inpatient treatment areas	240 gross
Outpatient areas	100 gross
Sleeping areas	120 gross
Kitchens, commercial	200 gross
Library	
Reading rooms	50 net
Stack area	100 gross
Locker rooms	50 gross
Mall buildings—covered and open	See Section 402.8.2
Mercantile	60 gross
Storage, stock, shipping areas	300 gross
Parking garages	200 gross
Residential	200 gross
Skating rinks, swimming pools	
Rink and pool	50 gross
Decks	15 gross
Stages and platforms	15 net
Warehouses	500 gross

For SI: 1 square foot = 0.0929 m², 1 foot = 304.8 mm. a. Floor area in square feet per occupant.