Building Code requirements for 0-lot line construction

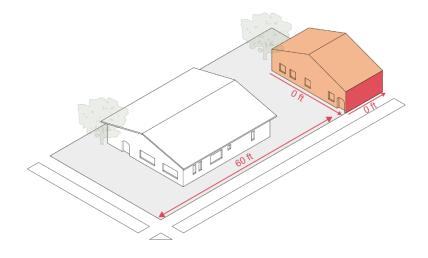
Summary Table

Construction Option	Wall Type	Fire-Resistance Requirement	Openings Allowed?	Code Reference
Separate Walls (Type III)	Bearing walls	2-hour, both faces	No	Table 602 & 705.5
	Nonbearing walls	1-hour, both faces	No	Table 602 & 705.5
Separate Walls (Type V)	Bearing walls	1-hour, both faces	No	Table 602 & 705.5
	Nonbearing walls	1-hour, both faces	No	Table 602 & 705.5
Party Wall (single wall)	Fire wall	Per Section 706 (typically 2-hour or as required)	No	Section 706.1.1

Type III: Combines noncombustible (brick, stone, concrete, metal) exterior walls with flexible (often wood) interiors; FRTW (Fire Retardant Treated Wood) permitted.

Type V: Offers maximum flexibility, ideal for small-scale residential—compliance depends on subtype (VA or VB).

- VA (Protected): Requires fire-rated assemblies (e.g., 1-hour) for framing, walls, floors, etc.
- VB (Unprotected): No fire-resistance ratings required for structural or envelope assemblies.



Fire Egress:

	Min. Opening Area	Min. Opening Height	Min. Opening Width	Max. Sill Height
Code Type				
IBC	5.7 ft ² (5 ft ² at grade level)	24 in	20 in	44 in

Building Code Requirements for Dwelling units

Bedrooms

Requirement Minimum Value

Floor area (habitable room) 70-100 sq ft

Minimum horizontal dimension 7 ft (any direction)

Accounting for some closet furniture, the smallest comfortable rooms are 100 sq ft and must include storage/closet space.

Hallways

Section R311.6 specifies that hallways within residential structures must be at least 3 feet (36 inches) wide.

This ensures sufficient space for general circulation, movement of furniture, and occupant safety.

Bathrooms

A **full bathroom** (with shower or tub) typically needs **30–35 sq ft** to comfortably accommodate fixtures and their required clearance.

Kitchens

Absolute minimal, still usable: ~12' × 5' (≈60 sq ft) with counter-depth fridge and 36" clear in front.

More comfortable: keep the 12' run but 42" clear (≈67 sq ft)