

FBC-R 5th Ed 2014

M1602.2 Prohibited sources. Outdoor and return air for a forced-air heating or cooling system shall not be taken from the following locations:

4. A closet, bathroom, toilet room, kitchen, garage, boiler room, furnace room, unconditioned attic or other dwelling unit.

FBC-R 6th Ed 2017

M1602.2 Return air openings. Return air openings for heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems shall comply with all of the following:

4. Return air shall not be taken from a closet, bathroom, toilet room, kitchen, garage, **mechanical room**, boiler room, furnace room or unconditioned attic. ← New term added

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R201.3 Terms defined in other codes. Where terms are not defined in this code such terms shall have the meanings ascribed in other code publications of the Florida Building Commission.

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FBC-M 6th Ed 2017 Chapter 2 Definitions

MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT/APPLIANCE ROOM. A room or space in which nonfuel-fired mechanical equipment and appliances are located.

FBC-R 7th Ed 2020

M1602.2 Return air openings. Return air openings for heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems shall comply with all of the following:

4. Return air shall not be taken from a closet, bathroom, toilet room, kitchen, garage, **mechanical room**, boiler room, furnace room or unconditioned attic.

Question: Is the room or space where an air handling unit (nonfuel-fired mechanical equipment) is located in a building regulated by the 6th and 7th edition FBC-R considered a "mechanical room"?

If Yes, is the return of the air handling unit then required to be ducted out of such room or space so that no return air is taken from the "mechanical room" to be in accordance with M1602.2 (4)?