

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

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.

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.

HVAC closet is a space?

Air Handler

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 it required to duct the return of an AHU out of a room or space (such as a closet) where an air handling unit is located in a 1 or 2 family dwelling to comply with M1602.2 (4)?

If an unducted return of an Air Handler is in a closet on a stand or platform it is drawing air from that closet as well as air through a louvered door or wall mounted grill from the remainder of the dwelling. This would seem to be prohibited by M1602.2 (4). The 7th edition does have some exceptions for taking return air from a closet, however they appear to be very limited (see exceptions 3 and 4 under M1602.2 (4)). So whether the space an AHU is located in is considered a closet or a mechanical room (defined as "A room or space in which nonfuel-fired mechanical equipment and appliances are located.", it would seem to be prohibited to take return air from either space with respect to the exceptions of the new 7th edition exceptions listed above.