

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 18-0139

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	September 21, 2021
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018
Subject:	Slope to drain requirements for exterior courtyard
Keywords:	Slope to drain,
Building Code Reference(s):	BCPC 2018, Division B, Part 7; 2.4.10.4.; BCBC 2018, Part 9; 9.14.6.1. and 9.26.18.1.

Question:

What is the required slope of the surface of an exterior courtyard to provide adequate drainage and what is the minimum spacing of piped area drains (if provided) in the exterior courtyard of a residential building?

Interpretation:

The exterior courtyard of a building, that does not have natural drainage away from the building, should be provided with a drainage system as per BCPC 2018 Article 2.4.10.4. There is no code-imposed requirement for minimum slope of the surface. However, good engineering practice would suggest that 2% slope be provided on the draining surface. Slopes of 1% or less, depending on the surface and distance, provide ineffective drainage.

The number and spacing of drains on a roof or paved surface are limited only by the size of the area being drained and corresponding sizing of the drains. There are no minimum spacing requirements provided in the BC Plumbing Code.



Patrick Shek, P.Eng., CP, FEC, Committee Chair

The views expressed are the consensus of the joint committee with members representing AIBC, EGBC and BOABC, which form the BC Building Code Interpretation Committee. The Building and Safety Standards Branch, Province of BC and the City of Vancouver participate in the committee's proceedings with respect to interpretations of the BC Building Code. The purpose of the committee is to encourage uniform province wide interpretation of the BC Building Code. These views should not be considered as the official interpretation of legislated requirements based on the BC Building Code, as final responsibility for an interpretation rests with the local *Authority Having Jurisdiction*. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.