

406.9(C) Bathtub and Shower Space

The previous code language stated that *receptacles shall not be installed within or directly over a bathtub or shower stall*. The language was subjective and vague. What is considered “directly over”?

The revised code language was intended to align with the installation requirements and dimensions for luminaires near bathtubs and shower stalls from Section 410.10(D). Now, receptacles shall be installed no closer 3 feet horizontally from, and 8 feet vertically from the top of the bathtub rim or shower stall threshold.

Below is a preview of the NEC. See the actual NEC text at [NFPA.ORG](https://www.nfpa.org) for the complete code section. Once there, click on their link to free access to the 2020 NEC edition of NFPA 70.

2017 Code Language:

406.9(C) Bathtub and Shower Space. *Receptacles shall not be installed within or directly over a bathtub or shower stall.*

2020 Code Language:

406.9(C) Bathtub and Shower Space. *Receptacles shall not be installed within a zone measured 900mm (3 ft) horizontally and 2.5 m (8 ft) vertically from the top of the bathtub rim or shower stall threshold. The identified zone is all-encompassing and shall include the space directly over the tub or shower stall.*

Exception No. 1: *In bathrooms with less than the required zone the receptacle(s) shall be permitted to be installed opposite the bathtub rim or shower stall threshold on the farthest wall within the room.*

Exception No. 2: *In a dwelling unit, a single receptacle shall be permitted for an electronic toilet or person hygiene device such as an electronic bidet seat. The receptacle shall be readily accessible and located on one of the following:*

- (1) *The wall behind the toilet but not behind the tank.*
- (2) *The opposite side of the toilet from the bathtub or shower*

