

News & Views

Emergency Exits – *Are they Clear?*

No matter how much storage space we have, we always seem to need more. However, emergency exits are not the place to find that extra storage. Fire Codes require you to maintain clear travel at emergency exits and access to exits.

As well, there are some very good non-legislated reasons to keep emergency exits clear. A duty of care is owed to everyone who visits or works in your building. When an emergency arises, the highest order of safety for building occupants is early warning. The next order of safety is evacuation. If you haven't kept the exits and access to exits clear, you put every building occupant in danger by cutting off their path to safely evacuate your building.

Emergency exits and the access leading to them must be kept clear and unobstructed by clutter or stored items. Clutter outside the building must also be kept clear, such as snow shovels, salt pails, or garbage cans. Snow and ice should be removed as soon as practical. Surfaces should be free of trip hazards, be maintained in good condition, and be well lit at night.

There is an endless array of storage options available for any kind of item you have. The emergency exits in your building are not a good option. So keep exits clear, and always think of the safety of the people in your building first.