



## **Required Separation Between Garage and Living Space Above**

In Chapter 3 of the 2021 International Residential Code (IRC), section R302.6 contains provisions related to the separation required between residential garages and adjacent living space. Specifically, Table R302.6 provides the required separation required between the garage and living space above:

*Separation: From habitable rooms above the garage*

*Material: Not less than 5/8-inch Type X gypsum board or equivalent*

The above provision states that where a living space is located above a private garage, the required ceiling separation for the structural framing, such as wood I-joists, is a single layer of 5/8" Type X gypsum board. Though a rated assembly for wood I-joists typically requires two layers of gypsum board for one-hour fire-resistance, the above provision does not require a rated assembly.

The same provision is found in the 2022 California Residential Code (California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 2.5), specifically in Table R302.6 *Dwelling-Garage And/Or Carport Separation*.