

# WHAT IS “INCIDENTAL USE”?

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## SUMMARY

Many buildings contain rooms or spaces that are related to the primary occupancy but may pose a **higher level of fire or life safety risk** than the occupancy itself. The IBC classifies these spaces as **Incidental Use**.

- The types of spaces which these can be are **limited to Table 509.1** of the International Building Code.
- Common examples of Incidental Use spaces include furnace or boiler rooms, laboratories, large laundry or trash collection.
- Incidental Use spaces often require greater fire-resistance-ratings, and/or fire sprinkler protection. Where a rating is required, supporting construction must also be fire-resistance-rated (with some exceptions).
- Incidental Use spaces are *not* required to be a separate occupancy; they are still associated with the primary occupancy classification. If the Incidental Use area is over 10% of the building area of the story where it is located, then it must be considered its own occupancy.

### Examples of Common Incidental Use Spaces:



Large Boiler Room



Laboratory with Flammable Liquids



Laundry Room



Trash Room

## CODE/STANDARD REFERENCES



IBC – 2021: Table 509.1 List of Incidental Use Areas

## VIDEO LINK

[www.meyerfire.com/university/what-is-incidental-use](http://www.meyerfire.com/university/what-is-incidental-use)

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