

Ontario Building Code Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

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- 1. What is the minimum number of exits required for a commercial building with a capacity of 200 people?**
 - A. 1**
 - B. 2**
 - C. 3**
 - D. 4**

- 2. What is the minimum number of accessible parking spaces required for a commercial building with 30 parking spaces?**
 - A. 1**
 - B. 2**
 - C. 3**
 - D. 4**

- 3. Which of the following is not a requirement for a fire-rated floor-ceiling assembly in a commercial building?**
 - A. Non-combustible materials**
 - B. Labeled with a fire rating**
 - C. Continuous from wall to wall**
 - D. Minimum thickness of 50 mm**

- 4. Which of the following is not a requirement for a fire-rated ceiling assembly in an industrial building?**
 - A. Non-combustible materials**
 - B. Labeled with a fire rating**
 - C. Continuous from wall to wall**
 - D. Minimum thickness of 75 mm**

- 5. What is the maximum allowable height for a fence in a residential zone?**
 - A. 1.2 meters**
 - B. 1.5 meters**
 - C. 1.8 meters**
 - D. 2.1 meters**

- 6. Which of the following is not a requirement for a fire-rated glazing assembly in a commercial building?**
- A. Labeled with a fire rating**
 - B. Non-combustible framing**
 - C. Minimum thickness of 6 mm**
 - D. Continuous from floor to underside of roof sheathing**
- 7. What is the minimum number of plumbing fixtures required for a gym with a capacity of 50 people?**
- A. 2**
 - B. 3**
 - C. 4**
 - D. 5**
- 8. What is the minimum height required for a handrail on a ramp in a commercial building?**
- A. 750 mm**
 - B. 850 mm**
 - C. 950 mm**
 - D. 1050 mm**
- 9. Which of the following is not a requirement for a fire-rated column assembly in a residential building?**
- A. Labeled with a fire rating**
 - B. Non-combustible materials**
 - C. Continuous from floor to underside of roof sheathing**
 - D. Minimum thickness of 75 mm**
- 10. Which of the following materials is not permitted for use as insulation in a residential building?**
- A. Fiberglass**
 - B. Cellulose**
 - C. Polyurethane foam**
 - D. Asbestos**

Answers

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1. B
2. A
3. D
4. D
5. C
6. C
7. B
8. C
9. D
10. D

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Explanations

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1. What is the minimum number of exits required for a commercial building with a capacity of 200 people?

- A. 1
- B. 2**
- C. 3
- D. 4

For a commercial building with a capacity of 200 people, the minimum number of exits required is 2. This is because according to fire safety regulations, there must be at least two exits for buildings with a capacity of 101-500 people. Option A and D are incorrect because 1 or 4 exits would not meet the safety requirements. Option C is incorrect because even though it meets the minimum requirement of two exits, it is only applicable for buildings with a capacity of 501-1,000 people.

2. What is the minimum number of accessible parking spaces required for a commercial building with 30 parking spaces?

- A. 1**
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 4

Commercial buildings with 30 parking spaces must have at least 1 accessible parking space. This is because the minimum requirement for accessible parking spaces is 1 out of every 25 parking spots. Therefore, in this case, 30 divided by 25 is 1.2, which rounds down to 1 parking space. The other options are incorrect because they do not follow the minimum requirement for accessible parking spaces. 2 would be too many, 3 would be too many, and 4 would be far too many for a building with only 30 parking spaces. It is important to follow these regulations to ensure equal access and accommodations for individuals with disabilities.

3. Which of the following is not a requirement for a fire-rated floor-ceiling assembly in a commercial building?

- A. Non-combustible materials
- B. Labeled with a fire rating
- C. Continuous from wall to wall
- D. Minimum thickness of 50 mm**

In the context of fire-rated floor-ceiling assemblies in commercial buildings, a minimum thickness requirement of 50 mm is not universally mandated by the Ontario Building Code. Fire-rated assemblies focus more on the performance characteristics needed to properly contain fire and prevent its spread, rather than specifying a standard thickness. The other options detail essential criteria for such assemblies. Utilizing non-combustible materials ensures that components do not contribute to the fire's intensity. Having the assembly labeled with a fire rating confirms its tested performance according to standards, allowing for verification of its fire-resistive capabilities. The continuous nature from wall to wall is crucial because gaps or discontinuities can compromise the integrity of the assembly, allowing smoke and flames to breach compartments. Thus, while thickness can play a role in fire resistance, the code does not stipulate an exact measurement like 50 mm as a definitive requirement for all scenarios.

4. Which of the following is not a requirement for a fire-rated ceiling assembly in an industrial building?

- A. Non-combustible materials**
- B. Labeled with a fire rating**
- C. Continuous from wall to wall**
- D. Minimum thickness of 75 mm**

The requirement for a fire-rated ceiling assembly in an industrial building includes the use of non-combustible materials, proper labeling indicating the fire rating, and a design that ensures continuity from wall to wall. These elements are essential for maintaining the integrity and effectiveness of the fire protection system. Non-combustible materials are crucial since they help prevent the spread of flames and smoke between different compartments of the building. Labeled fire ratings provide crucial information about the fire-resistance capabilities of the materials, ensuring compliance with standards and regulations. Continuity from wall to wall is vital to limit potential fire spread, as gaps or interruptions can compromise the assembly's performance during a fire event. The minimum thickness of 75 mm, however, is not a standard requirement for fire-rated ceilings. Fire-rated assemblies may have various thickness requirements depending on the specific materials used and the rating needed, but 75 mm does not universally apply to all fire-rated ceiling assemblies. Therefore, this aspect is not a general requirement in accordance with the Ontario Building Code.

5. What is the maximum allowable height for a fence in a residential zone?

- A. 1.2 meters**
- B. 1.5 meters**
- C. 1.8 meters**
- D. 2.1 meters**

In a residential zone, the maximum allowable height for a fence is typically limited to 1.8 meters. Option A, 1.2 meters, is too short and may not provide adequate privacy or security. Option B, 1.5 meters, is also shorter than the maximum allowed height. Option D, 2.1 meters, is too tall and may block views or obstruct the line of sight for drivers. Therefore, option C is the correct choice in this scenario, as it falls within the maximum allowable height range.

6. Which of the following is not a requirement for a fire-rated glazing assembly in a commercial building?

- A. Labeled with a fire rating**
- B. Non-combustible framing**
- C. Minimum thickness of 6 mm**
- D. Continuous from floor to underside of roof sheathing**

In order for a fire-rated glazing assembly to meet building codes, it must be labeled with a fire rating, have non-combustible framing, and be continuous from floor to underside of roof sheathing. This means that it must have a specific fire-resistance rating and be able to withstand high temperatures for a certain period of time. However, the minimum thickness of 6 mm is not a specific requirement for fire-rated glazing assemblies. It may vary depending on the type of glazing material and the desired fire resistance rating. Therefore, option C is not a requirement for a fire-rated glazing assembly in a commercial building.

7. What is the minimum number of plumbing fixtures required for a gym with a capacity of 50 people?

- A. 2**
- B. 3**
- C. 4**
- D. 5**

For a gym with a capacity of 50 people, the Ontario Building Code establishes specific requirements for plumbing fixtures to ensure adequate facilities for users. In facilities such as gyms, these requirements take into account the need for both showers and toilets that can accommodate the expected number of occupants. The minimum number of plumbing fixtures is determined based on the number of users to prevent wait times and ensure convenience and hygiene. When assessing the needs of a gym that can accommodate up to 50 people, the code specifies a certain ratio of fixtures per individual. In this case, having four fixtures aligns with the provisions of the Ontario Building Code, which likely recommends at least two toilets and additional fixtures (such as sinks or showers) to ensure that all users can have access to the necessary facilities concurrently. This arrangement addresses both comfort and safety for gym-goers, allowing for a smooth flow of users before and after exercise sessions. The answer of four fixtures appropriately reflects the intent of the code to provide adequate plumbing facilities in a high-traffic environment like a gym, ensuring that the needs of all occupants are met effectively.

8. What is the minimum height required for a handrail on a ramp in a commercial building?

- A. 750 mm
- B. 850 mm
- C. 950 mm**
- D. 1050 mm

The minimum height required for a handrail on a ramp in a commercial building is 950 mm. This is because building codes specify that handrails on ramps must be at least 34 inches (864 mm) and no more than 38 inches (965 mm) from the ground. Option A and B are below the minimum requirement, while option D is above the maximum height allowed. Therefore, option C is the correct answer. Additionally, the height of a handrail should be consistent throughout the entire ramp, so it cannot start at 850 mm and end at 1050 mm.

9. Which of the following is not a requirement for a fire-rated column assembly in a residential building?

- A. Labeled with a fire rating
- B. Non-combustible materials
- C. Continuous from floor to underside of roof sheathing
- D. Minimum thickness of 75 mm**

One possible explanation A fire-rated column assembly is designed to resist and contain the spread of fire within a building. It is important to ensure that all components of the assembly meet certain requirements to effectively perform this function. Option A is incorrect because a fire-rated column assembly must be clearly labeled with a fire rating to indicate its ability to withstand fire. This is necessary for building inspectors to verify compliance and for occupants to be aware of the level of fire protection provided. Option B is incorrect as non-combustible materials, such as steel, are required for fire-rated column assemblies. Combustible materials, such as wood, can contribute to the spread of fire and are not suitable for this purpose. Option C is incorrect because a fire-rated column assembly must be continuous from the floor to the underside of the roof sheathing. Any gaps or breaks in the assembly can allow fire and smoke to spread, compromising its effectiveness. The correct answer is option D because there is no minimum thickness requirement for a fire-rated column assembly. However, the materials used in the assembly must have the necessary fire-resistance properties to meet building code regulations. Simply having a minimum thickness does not guarantee fire resistance. In summary, the correct answer is not a requirement for

10. Which of the following materials is not permitted for use as insulation in a residential building?

- A. Fiberglass
- B. Cellulose
- C. Polyurethane foam
- D. Asbestos**

Asbestos is not permitted for use as insulation in a residential building because it has been linked to serious health risks such as lung cancer and mesothelioma. Fiberglass, cellulose, and polyurethane foam are commonly used materials for insulation in residential buildings and do not pose the same health hazards as asbestos.

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://ontariobuildingcode.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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