

**STATE OF OREGON
BUILDING CODES DIVISION**

STATEWIDE INTERPRETATION

No. 303.3

OREGON ONE AND TWO FAMILY DWELLING SPECIALTY CODE

SUBJECT: **Installation of Exhaust Fan in Other Similar Rooms**

CODE SECTION: Oregon One and Two Family Dwelling Specialty Code, Section 303.3

CODE EDITION: 2000 Edition of the Oregon One and Two Family Dwelling Specialty Code.

DATE: September 1, 2002

QUESTION: Does the term “*other similar rooms*”, as used in Section 303.3, include a laundry room with only a clothes washer and dryer in it?

Section 303.3 requires “...Bathrooms, water closet compartments and *other similar rooms* shall be provided with an aggregate glazing area in windows of not less than 3 square feet, one-half of which must be openable.

Exception: The glazed areas shall not be required where artificial light and a *mechanical ventilation system are provided.*”

ANSWER: No. Clothes washers do not emit enough humidity into the space to warrant mechanical ventilation and dryers are already venting all humidity to the exterior of structures. Therefore, a window or the addition of mechanical exhausting is not required. Rooms containing water closets, bathtubs, showers, spas **or similar** bathing facilities shall be mechanically ventilated or be provided with natural ventilation as specified in Section 303.3. The code considers that bathtubs and showers will generate sufficient moisture so that an openable window or mechanical ventilation system connected directly to the outside is required.