

FREE GUIDE:

BUILDING THE RIGHT CHUTE



HOW TO PLAN
FOR COMMERCIAL
LAUNDRY AND
TRASH CHUTES

K · A · S · L
E N T E R P R I S E S

Laundry chutes (also known as linen chutes) are practical and save time. They may be out of sight much of the time, but they're an integral and essential part of virtually any multi-story commercial building like hotels, hospitals, and assisted living facilities.

You're better off dropping the trash down a chute in seconds rather than dragging it through the hallways or down the fire escape with all of the smells and occasional leaks that can annoy guests, residents, employees and customers.

It's the same story with laundry that can reach the right destination. Do you really want workers to haul soiled sheets up and down elevators all day long?

Can you imagine completing a building only to discover that you forgot about the laundry chute or trash chute? It can happen. Or, if you leave space for a laundry or trash chute, construction workers may enclose it with four walls without thinking. It's going to cost you to open it back up.

With our guide, we want to help you think through how to best plan for and use laundry chutes with your next project. You'll save time and money with more efficient building operations.

1. Linen chute intake doors can have a left or right hand hinge depending on the location of the chute in the room. It just takes a little bit of planning to make the right decision for your building.

2. Sound coating is on trash chutes only, not on linen chutes. You need to factor that into your overall costs based on industry standards.

3. Sound insulation in the walls around the trash chute chase is a good idea for sound control. You want to make a reasonable effort to control sounds for patients, guests, customers and others who might not appreciate the banging of garbage that can include cans and glass.

4. It's important that the chute be enclosed in a continuous fire rated chase with a rating of 2 hours if the building is four or more stories in height and a 1 hour chase if the building is less than four stories.

5. How much room should you count on? The chase opening size is 28" x 28" minimum. A size of 30" x 30" is better.

6. The minimum distance from the center of a 24" diameter chute to the door face is 15" plus the wall thickness.

7. On a weekly basis, you should use the wash down sprayer on the top floor of the trash chute. Take full advantage of the optional sanitizer that sprays disinfectant and cleaner on the chute to keep it clean.

8. For trash chutes that are over 8 floors, a wash-down should be located about every 5-6 floors.

9. What are some typical sizes? Chutes with a 24" diameter is the most used size for both "Building the Right Chute: How to Plan for Commercial Laundry and Trash Chutes"

trash and linen, but 30" diameter is a good option - especially for linen chutes.

10. Linen chutes are used in hotels, hospitals, and senior care facilities. Trash chutes are used in apartments, senior housing, hospitals, office buildings and student housings. Two trash chutes can be used to separate recyclable trash from regular trash.

11. Chutes must be installed before the drywall walls are completely erected around the chute. It is easier for the installer if not more than 2 walls are erected. However, in some cases three walls are erected first leaving the front wall out on the side the door is located. The front wall from floor to ceiling needs to be open for the chute to be installed. Then the front wall is erected after the chute is installed.

12. In some cases, consider electric interlocks, which allow only one door to be opened at one time. For this option, the discharge door should be wired to ensure that the intake doors are locked if the discharge door is closed.

13. Here are some other chute options that are available. Rubber baffles hanging down in the intake doors can be furnished for safety. Rubber isolator pads can be located under the floor supports for vibration control. ADA handicap handles can be installed if required. Steel fire stops at each floor prevent fire from spreading to upper floors. Heat and smoke detectors are available when electric interlocks are used. And locks can be made so the keys are not removable when the door is open.

14. A thru-wall door is used on the first floor for tenants to put their trash. The door is located in a wall so the trash can be dropped into a box or can located in the rubbish room for the custodian to put the trash into a compactor or garbage bin. If this trash room is located properly, the thru-wall door can be located to drop the trash directly into the trash compactor to save custodians' time and help them be productive on other tasks.

15. According to the NFPA 82 Fire Code, the chute must extend through the roof 4' above with a cap and bird screen. This makes the laundry room drafty on cold days. A draft damper at the roof level is not allowed.

Offsets are not recommended in the chute. However, the NFPA 82 Fire Code allows for a 15 degree from vertical offset every two floors. Above the highest intake door a 45 degree offset can be used before going through the roof.

All the trash and linen chute intake doors are stainless steel U.L. "B" label rated for 1 hour.

Trash chutes use a horizontal discharge door at the bottom, which is held open with a 165 degree fusible link in case of fire.

Linen chutes use a hopper type top hinged discharge door, which is held open with a 165 degree fusible link in case of fire. In either case, the doors should never be closed. In some applications, like hospitals, the discharge doors are connected to an electric smoke detector, which allows the doors to close when smoke is detected.

About Kasl Enterprises, Inc.

The company has been in business for over 40 years. We sell and install trash and linen chutes in apartment buildings, hospitals, hotels and office buildings. As part of our service, Kasl Enterprises, Inc. has an inventory of parts available for repair to most all manufacturers of trash and linen chutes. We also sell trash compactors, mailboxes and more.

We have also been involved in large hospital complexes, hotels, casinos and apartments throughout the United States. Our chutes are located in various facilities in cities, such as Albuquerque, NM, Denver, CO, Baton Rouge, LA, Raleigh/Durham, NC, Pacific Palisades, CA, Kissimmee, FL, Detroit, MI, and Richmond, VA – just to name a few. The tallest building we have worked on is the 75-floor Renaissance Center Hotel in Detroit, Michigan.

Would you like to learn more? Call **734-699-3232** or contact us at kasl@kaslweb.com.