

## **Dumbwaiter Code and Installation Tips**

- The contractor should leave one wall of the shaft unframed until after the dumbwaiter is installed. The dumbwaiter cab is larger than the hoist-way door opening.
- Just like elevators, dumbwaiters have two doors or gates as we call them. One gate is on the interior cab and one gate is on the exterior shaft-way opening. The dumbwaiter cab needs to be protected by a gate for safety. This not only protects items from falling out of the cab but it also prevents pinch points.
- The shaft-way doors (exterior) should be protected by an interlock so the shaft will not be exposed when the dumbwaiter is not there. Commercial Dumbwaiters **MUST** have an interlock.
- Commercial dumbwaiters are required to have a keyed control panel for maintenance.
- The NEC (national electrical code) requires 36" clearance in front of the Dumbwaiter controller and disconnect.
- Access to the machine area should have a 24" x 24" keyed access panel for service.
- The Dumbwaiter shaft-way should be fire rated; fire rating is determined by the local jurisdiction having authority.
- Commercial Dumbwaiters must be inspected by the state in New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont.
- Code determines the rated capacity by weight in relation the cubic size of the cab.  
Formula:  $W \times D \times H = \text{_____} \div 1728 \times 13.9 = \text{Weight capacity of DW}$   
Ex:  $26" \times 26" \times 36" = 24,336"$  divided by  $1728 \times 13.9 = 195.75\text{lbs}$   
which is less than 200lbs. A 200lb dumbwaiter would meet the specification.  
If it was just over 200lb, then a 300lbs dumbwaiter would be required.
- Food Service dumbwaiter cabs are typically stainless steel to satisfy the local health officials

## Dumbwaiter Facts

- Most loading heights are set at 36" off the finish floor to match counter heights.
- The usual 36" loading height allows the winding drum motor to be installed under the cab so that a separate machine room is not needed unless otherwise desired.
- Residential dumbwaiters can come with a wooden cab with a roll top (See Figure 1 below). Cabinet style hoist-way doors can be made to match the homes décor (Figure 2 below).
- When sizing a dumbwaiter, the purpose for which it will be used should be considered. What types of items will be transported in the dumbwaiter? The largest and heaviest items should be considered in the cab design.
- Dumbwaiters can have three types of gates: slide up (Figure 1), bi-part and collapsible.
- Hoist-way Doors can be swing doors (Figure 2), bi-part or slide up.
- Dumbwaiters can have up to six stops.



**Figure 1**  
Example of Roll Top Gate



**Figure 2**  
Example of Cabinet Style,  
Swing Door

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