

**NC Department of Insurance  
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division  
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**Clothes Washer Drain Size**

**Code:** 2012 NC Plumbing Code  
**Section:** 406.3

**Date:** November 14, 2013

**Question:**

At what point does the waste connection from an automatic clothes washer have to be a minimum of three (3) inches in diameter?

**Answer:**

The minimum 2-inch drainage pipe is used for the standpipe, trap, trap arm to the vertical vent or waste stack and also for the vertical vent. As soon as the drainage pipe turns horizontal from the vertical vent or waste stack, the minimum drain pipe size for the horizontal drain is to be 3 inches. This minimum horizontal drain size is applied in all cases, regardless of whether it is a fixture drain or a branch drain.

**Keywords:**

Horizontal drain, discharge