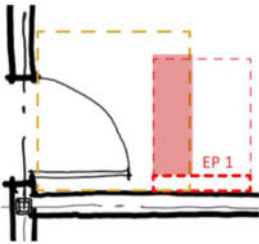


## ENGLISH TIP

[link to video lesson](#)

# Describing Spatial Conflicts in Design Coordination



## Key Points

When elements on a plan don't **meet code requirements** or interfere with **required clearances**, you need to describe these problems clearly to your team. Understanding how to talk about **spatial conflicts** helps you coordinate changes efficiently.

## Summary

### Three Ways to Describe Spatial Conflicts

#### 1. Impact (affects a space or layout)

Use **impact** when something affects or influences a required clearance or space.

**Pattern:** [Element] impacts [the clearance/space/layout]

*"The location of EP1 impacts the clearance in front of the door"*

*"The column location impacts the corridor width"*

#### 2. Conflict (verb) with a requirement

Use **conflicts with** when an element violates or doesn't meet a requirement. This emphasizes that there's a problem that needs fixing.

**Pattern:** [Element] conflicts with [the required + noun]

*"EP1 conflicts with the required door clearance"*

*"The beam depth conflicts with the ceiling height requirement"*

**\*\* Pronunciation note:** As a **verb**, stress the second syllable: con-**FLICT**

### 3. Conflict (noun) between two things

Use **conflict** as a noun when you want to state that a problem exists between two elements or requirements.

**Pattern:** There's a conflict between [element] and [requirement]

*"There's a conflict between EP1 and the required door clearance"*

*"There's a conflict between the duct size and the ceiling height"*

**\*\* Pronunciation note:** As a **noun**, stress the first syllable: **CON-flict**

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### More expressions

Here are some related expressions professionals use when discussing spatial conflicts:

#### Encroach on/upon:

When something extends into a required space or clearance zone:

*"The column encroaches on the accessible route"*

*"The ductwork encroaches upon the required ceiling height"*

#### Overlap with:

When two clearances or spaces occupy the same area (sometimes acceptable, sometimes not):

*"The door swing overlaps with the required wheelchair clearance"*

*"These two clearance zones can overlap without issues"*

#### Reduce:

When something makes a dimension smaller than required:

*"The wall offset reduces the corridor width"*

*"This change reduces the clearance to less than minimum"*

#### Describing severity:

*"This is a minor conflict" (small adjustment needed)*

*"This is a significant conflict" (major redesign needed)*

*"This violates the building code" (must be fixed)*

#### Problem + solution language:

*"The panel placement conflicts with door clearance, so we need to relocate it"*

*"There's a conflict between the beam and the ceiling, but we can raise the slab"*

## PRACTICE ACTIVITY

### PART 1: Dialogue Completion

#### Word bank

and

between

clearance

conflicts with

impact

relocate

required

**Architect:** Hi, Dana. I'm checking the basement plan and found a problem.

**Engineer:** What's wrong?

**Architect:** The pump room door \_\_\_\_\_ 1 the \_\_\_\_\_ 2 egress width.

**Engineer:** Understood. How badly does it \_\_\_\_\_ 3 the exit path?

**Architect:** Its actually a code violation. There's a conflict \_\_\_\_\_ 4 the door swing \_\_\_\_\_ 5 the emergency route.

**Engineer:** Okay—can we \_\_\_\_\_ 6 the door to the south wall?

**Architect:** Yes. That will restore the \_\_\_\_\_ 7 we need. I'll update the layout now.

### Answer Key – Dialogue Completion

1. conflicts with
2. required
3. impact
4. between
5. and
6. relocate
7. clearance