

Within tolerance

Construction can't be perfect all the time, so allowable tolerances have been defined to maintain quality. Here are some of the key tolerances you should work to in order to ensure quality buildings.

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THE DEFINITION of construction tolerance is an allowable variation in something that can be measured. These may be:

- the permitted variation from a given dimension or quantity
- the range of variation permitted in maintaining a specified dimension
- a permitted variation from location or alignment.

A number of documents are readily available that give practical guidance on construction tolerances. While these tolerances are a permitted deviation from perfect, the aim is always to be accurate when constructing and finishing a building. Taking everything to the outer tolerance limit may make achieving quality difficult for following trades.

Interpreting tolerances correctly

Tolerances apply up to and including the length over which each tolerance is stated to apply. Tolerances are not typically interpolated or proportioned to the actual length of building element being measured.

For example, a 4 mm deviation measured over a 2 m length of wall surface means that the same 4 mm deviation is to be applied over a 1 m wall surface or a 500 mm wall surface.



Out of plumb wall and bottom plate that isn't straight.