Radiator Clearance & Measurement Guide

Calculate the exact spacing to build a safe, heat-efficient hallway console.

Transform a bulky radiator into a beautiful architectural feature without sacrificing warmth or walkway space. Use these precise tolerances to engineer proper airflow and protect your home's finishes.



Clearances & Additions

+ 2.0 in
internal width addition (pipe-to-pipe)

+ 1.5 in
internal height and depth additions

2 in
cold air intake gap

60%
open area grille minimum

1/2 - 1 in
solid top overhang

36 in
clear walkway space opposite radiator

Protect Your Painted Finishes

Coat the raw wood interior with a high-quality, heat-resistant enamel. Standard latex paints will quickly blister and peel when exposed to constant radiant heat.

Airflow & Access Engineering

1. **Top convection baffle** Install an angled metal or wood surface inside the vents to direct rising hot air outward.
2. **Magnetic side panel** Use strong neodymium magnets for seamless, hidden access to the thermostatic and bleeder valves.
3. **Secure the frame** Anchor the main structure to wall studs using discreet L-brackets to prevent accidental tipping.
4. **Style safely** Decorate with heat-tolerant ceramic vases or wooden bowls, keeping delicate plants away from vents.

Pre-Build Clearances to Check

- ◯ Measure the widest pipe-to-pipe point for accurate internal width.
- ◯ Check baseboard height and profile to plan flush side panel cuts.
- ◯ Confirm exactly which side needs access for the operational valves.
- ◯ Check clearance for any nearby swinging closet doors.
- ◯ Ensure the cover depth won't project past adjacent door casings.

Smart Material Upgrades

Find your row: **Your specific setup**

Your specific setup	Your pick	Why
Top drop-zone surface	Solid oak or quartz	Resists thermal warping better than veneers
Main painted cabinet	High-density MDF	Prevents unsightly cracking at the seams
Noisy steam pipes	Acoustic dampening mat	Absorbs sharp metallic echoes safely
Cold exterior wall	Reflective foil insulation	Bounces radiant heat back into room

Project Notes & Dimensions

Enjoy your beautifully balanced entryway and a perfectly cozy, heat-efficient home!