Build an Anteroom for Healthcare Construction

THE DIRECT ANSWER

A construction anteroom is a small transitional room between the occupied corridor and the work zone - sealed barrier walls, two doors that are never open at the same time - that creates a pressure cascade (corridor -> anteroom -> work zone, each step lower in pressure) and a decontamination point for workers and materials. It is where workers HEPA-vacuum and change coveralls, and where the manometer lives.

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

- Walls: sealed barrier (poly or hard) floor to ceiling, all penetrations sealed.
- Doors: two - one to the corridor, one to the work zone. Self-closing preferred; never open simultaneously.
- Size: large enough for a worker with equipment to stand, turn, and be HEPA-vacuumed - typically 4x4 to 6x6 feet minimum, bigger for material transfer.
- Contents: HEPA vacuum, sticky/walk-off mats (minimum 24" x 36"), coverall and shoe-cover storage and disposal, hand hygiene supplies.
- Monitoring: manometer with data logging, measuring the work-zone-to-anteroom and anteroom-to-corridor differentials.

ANTEROOM DISCIPLINE

- HEPA-vacuum clothing (or remove coveralls) before exiting to the corridor.
- Wipe down materials passing through.
- Never prop doors or hold both open together - it destroys the cascade.
- Train every worker on day one. The anteroom is the most behavior-dependent part of the containment system.

FIELD QUESTION

Can both anteroom doors be open at once?

Never. Simultaneous open doors destroy the pressure cascade and the containment.

The anteroom is an airlock for dust.

Caution: codes, editions, and targets vary by facility and authority having jurisdiction (AHJ). Figures marked as common practice are facility targets, not code requirements. Confirm against your AHJ and the current code text before acting.