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## North Carolina Building Code Council update

### Highlights of 2009 residential code changes

Code changes to the 2009 North Carolina Residential Code continue to be the focus for this issue of Code Corner.

#### CHAPTER 7 – WALL COVERING

##### SECTION R702 INTERIOR COVERING

**R702.4.2 Cement, fiber-cement and glass mat gypsum backers.** Cement, fiber-cement or glass mat gypsum backers in compliance with ASTM C 1288, C 1325 or C 1178 and installed in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations shall be used as backers for wall tile in tub and shower areas and wall panels in shower areas.

*IRC change – New Section. "Green gypsum board" is no longer allowed to be used as backer behind tiled tub and shower stalls. The three specific materials must be used: Cement, fiber-cement or glass mat gypsum backers. If grout or tile cracks, water penetration can be absorbed by the paper facing on the green board.*

##### SECTION R703 EXTERIOR COVERING

**R703.1 General.** Exterior walls shall provide the building with a weather-resistant exterior wall envelope. The exterior wall envelope shall include flashing as described in Section R703.8. The exterior wall envelope shall be designed and constructed in a manner that prevents the accumulation of water within the wall assembly by providing a water-resistant barrier behind the exterior veneer as required by Section R703.2. and a means of draining water that enters the assembly to the exterior. Protection against condensation in the exterior wall assembly shall be provided in accordance With Chapter 11 of this code.

**Exceptions: ...**

*IRC change – Modification clarifies that a means of draining water to the exterior must be provided for*

*exterior wall assemblies and includes provisions for water management through exceptions.*

**R703.4 Attachments.** Unless specified otherwise, all wall coverings shall be securely fastened in accordance with Table R703.4 or with other approved aluminum, stainless steel, zinc-coated or other approved corrosion-resistant fasteners. Where the basic wind speed per Figure R301.2(4) is 110 miles per hour (49 m/s) or higher, the attachment of wall coverings shall be designed to resist the component and cladding loads specified in Table R301.2(2), adjusted for height and exposure in accordance with Table R301.2(3).

*IRC change – Added section dealing with basic wind speed areas needing to have attachment of wall cladding material designed to resist cladding loads adjusted for height and exposure in accordance with Table R301.2(3).*

**R703.8 Flashing.** Approved corrosion-resistant flashing shall be applied shingle-fashion in such a manner to prevent entry of water into the wall cavity or penetration of water to the building structural framing components. The flashing shall extend to the surface of the exterior wall finish. Approved corrosion-resistant flashings shall be installed at all of the following locations:

1. Exterior window and door openings. Flashing at exterior window and door openings shall extend to the surface of the exterior wall finish or to the water-resistant barrier for subsequent drainage....

*IRC change – Changed the language in item #1, code no longer recognizes self flashing windows in the text and the reference has been removed.*

**R703.11 Vinyl siding.** Vinyl siding shall be certified and labeled as conforming to the requirements of ASTM D 3679 by an approved quality-control agency.

*IRC change – Added language specific to vinyl siding stating that siding shall be certified and labeled meeting ASTM D 3679 by an approved quality-control agency*

**R703.11.1 Installation.** Vinyl siding, soffit and accessories shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions.

*IRC change – Added language to specify that vinyl siding installation shall be per manufacturer's installation instructions.* 🏠

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