



**RESIDENTIAL CODE MANUAL
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
BUILDING AND SAFETY DIVISION
Based on the 2011 LACRC**

**#1010
RAH101
Article 1
4-5-13
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PATIO COVERS

GENERAL

A patio cover is defined as a structure used for recreational, outdoor living purposes. Therefore, patio covers shall not be used as carports, garages, storage rooms or habitable rooms. Patio covers are considered exterior space and shall not be considered waterproof or weather-proof.

As patio covers are not habitable spaces, all doors, windows and walls between the dwelling and the patio cover shall be maintained.

EXTERIOR WALLS

The exterior walls of patio covers shall have openings in the longer side and one additional side. The openings shall be 65 percent of the area of the wall below 6 feet 8 inches, measured from the floor. The walls containing the required openings shall face a yard.

The required openings may be enclosed with any of the following items:

1. Insect screening,
2. Approved translucent or transparent plastic not more than 0.125 inch in thickness,
3. Glass conforming to the provisions of Section R308, or
4. Any combination of the above.

Although the patio covers are non-habitable areas, they are still part of the dwelling. Therefore, the exterior walls, openings and eave projections of the patio covers shall comply with Section R302.1 of the Residential Code.

HEIGHT

Patio covers are limited to one-story structures not exceeding 12 feet in height measured from grade plane to the average height of the patio roof surface.

LIGHT AND VENTILATION

Dwellings that have exterior wall openings required for light and ventilation may have such opening into a patio cover, provided the patio cover complies with this section. Exterior wall openings required for light only shall be permitted to open into any conforming patio cover.

Exterior openings required for ventilation shall be permitted to open into patio covers, provided the openings between the interior room and the patio cover are not less than one-tenth of the floor area of the interior room, but not less than 20 square feet and the minimum area of openings from

the patio cover to the outdoors is based upon the total floor area (both patio and interior areas) being ventilated. (See the Exception to Section R303.2)

EGRESS

Emergency egress or rescue openings from sleeping rooms may not open into enclosed patio covers, but may open into unenclosed patio covers, provided the patio cover has an adequate opening to the exterior complying with Section R310.

A required exit from the dwelling unit may open into an open or enclosed patio cover, provided the patio cover has one exit complying with the requirements of Section R311.

STRUCTURAL DESIGN

Patio covers shall be designed for a live load of 10 psf, except that snow loads shall be used when they exceed this amount.

In general, Structural Observation is not required for patio covers. However, Structural Observation will be required if the registered design professional designates it on the plans, or if required by the building official.

CONSTRUCTION IN VERY HIGH FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES

Patio covers that are located in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone shall be in conformance with Section R327.

New RCM

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