

LOS ANGELES COUNTY/BUILDING & SAFETY DIVISION
Standard Construction Notes
FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONE
2026 LA County Building Code – 2025 CA WILDLAND
URBAN INTERFACE CODE (Chapter 5)

Notes:

- Use this link to determine if a location is within moderate to high fire hazard zone: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/5065c998b4b0462f9ec3c6c226c610a9>
- Provisions for Materials and Construction Methods for Exterior Wildfire Exposure are now located in Part 7, California Wildland-Urban Interface Code.
- Prior to permitting final approval, the property shall follow the vegetation management requirements.
- The use of paints, coating, stains or other surface treatments are not an approved method of protection [503.2.5].

APPLICATION [501.1]

1. New buildings.
2. Additions, alterations or repairs made to existing buildings within Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Fire Area or Fire Hazard Severity Zone
3. Any Wildland-Urban Interface WUI Fire Area designated by the Los Angeles County Fire Department shall comply with the following requirements

Exception: Group U accessory structures not exceeding 120 sq. foot located and agricultural buildings not less than 50 ft. from applicable buildings.

ROOFING [504.2, 504.4]

4. Roof covering shall be Class A fire classification when tested in accordance with ASTM E108 or UL790.
Except:
 - a. Roof assemblies with covering of brick, masonry, or exposed concrete roof deck.
 - b. Roof assemblies with ferrous or copy shingles or sheets, metal sheets and shingles, clay or concrete roof tile or slate installed on noncombustible decks or ferrous, copper or metal sheets without a roof deck on noncombustible framing.
 - c. Roof assemblies with minimum 16 9z/sq ft copper sheets over combustible roof decks.
 - d. Roof assemblies of slate roof covering installed over ASTM D226, Type II underlayment over combustible decks.
5. Detail the space between the roof covering and roof decking where the roof profile allows a space; the spaces shall be constructed to prevent the intrusion of flames and embers, be fire stopped with approved materials, or provide one layer of 72-

pound cap sheet complying with ASTM D3909 Standard Specification to be installed over the roof deck. Exception: Cap sheet is not required where not less than 1 inch of mineral wood board or other noncombustible material is located between the roofing material and wood framing or deck. (504.2.1.1)

6. Where **roof valley flashing** is installed:
 - a. The flashing shall be not less than 0.019-inch No. 26 gage galvanized sheet installed over not less than on layer of minimum 72-pound mineral-surfaced non-perforated cap sheet complying with ASTM D 3909, at least 36-inch-wide running the full length of the valley.
7. **Roof gutters and downspouts** shall be constructed of noncombustible material. Gutters shall be provided with an approved means to prevent accumulation of leaves and debris

VENTS [504.10]

8. Vent openings for enclosed attics, enclosed eave soffit spaces, enclosed rafter spaces, and underfloor vents shall resist building ignition from the intrusion of burning embers and flame through the vent openings. Vent openings shall comply with one of the following:
 - a. Listed vent complying with California State Fire Marshall, WUI, and ASTM E2886 OR
 - b. Protected by corrosion resistant, noncombustible wire mesh with min. 1/16" and max. 1/8" openings (504.10.1)
9. Vents shall NOT be installed on underside of eaves and cornices unless one of the conditions set forth in Section 504.10.2 and 504.10.3 are met.

OFF RIDGE AND RIDGE VENTS [504.10.2]

10. Vents that are installed on a sloped roof, such as dormer vents, shall comply with all the following:
 - a. Openings shall be between 1/16th and 1/8th inch.
 - b. The materials shall be noncombustible except vents located under the roof covering, along the ridge, with noncombustible wire mesh.
 - c. The materials shall be corrosion resistant.

EXTERIOR COVERING [504.5]

Note: The following **exterior covering materials** shall conform to this section: Exterior wall covering or assembly, underside of roof eave overhangs or soffits, underside of exterior porch ceilings, underside of floor projections, and underfloor areas. **The following are exempt:** architectural trim, fascia and gutters; roof or wall corner projections or similar, and deck walking surfaces complying with Section 337.9.

11. Exterior wall covering or wall assembly shall be one of the following:
 - a. 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction on the exterior side
 - b. Noncombustible material. OR
 - c. Ignition resistant material. OR
 - d. Heavy Timber Construction OR
 - e. Log Wall Construction OR
 - f. Complies with ASTM E2707 and SFM Standard 12-7A-1
 - g. Assembly suitable for exterior fire exposure containing one layer of 5/8-inch Type X gypsum sheathing applied behind the exterior wall covering or cladding on the exterior side of the framing
 - h. Assembly suitable for exterior fire exposure with a 1-hour fire-resistance rating, rated from the exterior side, as tested in accordance with ASTM E119 or UL 263.
 - i. Fire-retardant wood labeled for exterior use and complying with the requirements of Section 2303.2 of the Building Code.
12. A minimum of 6-inches of metal flashing or noncombustible material applied vertically on the exterior of the wall shall be installed to the ground, decking, and roof intersections (504.5.1)
13. Exterior wall coverings shall extend from the top of the foundation to the roof, and terminate at 2-inches (50.8 mm) nominal solid wood blocking between rafters at all roof coverings, or in the enclosed eaves, terminate at the enclosure (504.5.2.1)

OPEN ROOF EAVES [504.3]

14. Exposed roof deck on the underside of unenclosed roof eaves and fascias, if provided, shall consist of one of the following (504.3.1):
 - a. Noncombustible material
 - b. Ignition-resistant material
 - c. Fire-retardant wood labeled for exterior use and complying with the requirements of Section 2303.2 of the Building Code
 - d. 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction on the exterior side, tested with ASTM E119 or UL 263
 - e. 2-inch nominal dimension lumber
 - f. One layer of 5/8" Type X applied behind an exterior covering on the underside exterior of roof deck.
 - g. Exterior portion of a 1-hr fire resistive exterior wall assembly applied to the underside of roof deck designed for exterior fire exposure per Gypsum Association Fire Resistance Design Manual as tested in accordance with ASTM E119 or UL 263.

ENCLOSED ROOF EAVES AND ROOF EAVE SOFFITS

15. Exposed underside shall be protected by one of the following (504.3):
 - a. Noncombustible material
 - b. Ignition-resistant material
 - c. Exterior portion of a 1-hr fire resistive exterior wall assembly applied to the underside of rafter tails or soffit per Gypsum Association Fire Resistance Design Manual as tested in accordance with ASTM E119 or UL 263.
 - d. 2-inch nominal dimension lumber
 - e. 1-inch minimal fire-retardant-treated lumber or 3/4 inch nominal fire-retardant treated plywood identified for exterior use and complying with section 2302.2 of the Building Code.
 - f. Boxed-in roof eave soffit assemblies complying with SFM 12-7A-3 or ASTM E2957.
 - g. Boxed-in roof eave soffit assemblies with an underside that meets the performance complying with SFM 12-7A-3 or ASTM E2957.

EXTERIOR PORCH CEILINGS [504.7]

16. Exposed underside shall be protected by one of the following (504.7):
 - a. Noncombustible material
 - b. Ignition-resistant material
 - c. Fire-retardant wood labeled for exterior use and complying with the requirements of Section 2303.2 of the Building Code
 - d. One layer of 5/8" Type X applied behind an exterior covering on the underside of the ceiling
 - e. Exterior portion of a 1-hr fire resistive exterior wall assembly applied to the underside of the ceiling assembly per Gypsum Association Fire Resistance Design Manual as tested in accordance with ASTM E119 or UL 263.
 - f. Porch ceiling assemblies with a horizontal underside complying with SFM 12-7A-3 or ASTM E2957.

FLOOR PROJECTIONS / UNDERFLOOR PROTECTION / UNDERSIDE OF APPENDAGES [504.7.1]

17. Exposed underside shall be protected by one of the following (504.7.1):
 - a. Noncombustible material
 - b. Ignition-resistant material
 - c. Fire-retardant wood labeled for exterior use and complying with the requirements of Section 2303.2 of the Building Code
 - d. Material approved for not less than 1-hour fire resistance-rated construction on the exterior side as tested in accordance with ASTM E119 or UL263
 - e. One layer of 5/8" Type X applied behind an exterior covering on the underside of the floor projection
 - f. Exterior portion of a 1-hr fire resistive exterior wall assembly applied to the underside of the floor assembly per Gypsum Association Fire Resistance Design Manual as tested in accordance with ASTM E119 or UL 263.
 - g. Underside of a floor projection assembly meets Section 337.11

- h. Underside of a floor assembly complying with SFM 12-7A-3 or ASTM E2957

EXTERIOR WINDOWS AND DOORS [504.8]

- 18. Exterior glazing (exterior windows, skylights and exterior glazed door assemblies) shall be MULTI-PANE units with a minimum of ONE TEMPERED PANE, or glass block units, or minimum 20-min. rated, or complies with SFM 12-7A-2 (504.8).
- 19. Exterior doors shall meet one of the following (504.9):
 - a. Noncombustible material OR
 - b. Ignition-resistant material OR
 - c. Solid core wood having stiles and rails not less than 1-3/8-in. thick with interior panel thickness not less than 1-1/4-in. thick. OR
 - d. Minimum 20 min. rated OR
 - e. Comply with ASTM E2707 or SFM 12-7A-1

DECKING [504.7.3.2]

- 20. Walking surface material of decks, porches, balconies and stairs shall be constructed with one of the following materials (504.7.3.2):

- a. Ignition-resistant material or material that complies with performance requirements for both SFM 12-7A-4 and section 503.2.4
- b. Fire-retardant wood labeled for exterior use and complying with the requirements of Section 2303.2 of the Building Code
- c. Noncombustible material
- d. Complies with SFM 12-7A-4A when attached exterior wall covering is also either noncombustible or ignition-resistant material.
- e. Material that complies with the performance requirements when tested in accordance with both ASTM E2632 and ASTM E2726.

ACCESSORY STRUCTURES AND MISCELLANEOUS STRUCTURES [504.11]

- 21. When any portion of an attached or detached accessory structure (trellises, arbors, patio covers, carports, gazebos and similar structures of an accessory or miscellaneous character) lies within 50 feet of an applicable building, it shall be constructed of (504.11):
 - a. Noncombustible material
 - b. Ignition-resistant material
 - c. Heavy timber construction