

effect. Significant changes from the 20

the code citation and a comment on t

particular code line does not have those

Check with the local building departm

used in your area and for local code an

model codes for each state can be fou

TABLE 1

Organization

AAMA

REFERENCED

DESIGN DOCL

AAMA/WDMA/CS

Fenestration Standards/S

Code Check[®] Building Fifth Edition

By DOUGLAS HANSEN, SKIP WALKER & REDWOOD KARDON Illustrations by Paddy Morrissey, Kaia Mathewson & Douglas Hansen

© 2023 by the authors and The Taunton Press, Inc. ISBN 978-1-64155-207-3 Code Check[®] is a trademark of The Taunton Press, Inc., registered in the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office.

Based on Chapters 1–11 of the 2021 edition of the International Residential Code[®] including annotated changes from the 2018 edition

ode Check Building 5th edition is a condensed guide to codes used for light-frame residential construction. The primary references are the building portions of the 2021 International Residential Code (IRC) and the 2021 International Building Code (IBC). The IRC is used for 1- & 2-family dwellings and townhouses, while the IBC is used for structural issues beyond the scope of the IRC, and for multifamily and commercial buildings.

This book can also be used in areas where the 2018 model codes are still in

KEY TO USING THIS BOOK

Each line that starts with a checkbox ends with a code reference. The code being referenced is shown in the top of the column at the right side. The following example is from *p. 13:*

☐ Min. 1 egress door required each dwelling unit ______ 311.2 This line tells us that each dwelling requires an egress door, and the IRC code reference is section 311.2. The actual reference is R311.2, and we drop the R in

Not all of the code references are from ces used in this book.

eans that an exception to the code rule from *p. 4* regarding work that does not

≤ 200-sq.-ft. floor area EXC_105.2#1 105.2#1²

ot required for accessory structures up shelters, which do require permits. The he superscript "2", indicating it is code ained at the bottom of **p.4**.

es. They are referenced in the text as in

502.8.1

g and boring of joists are found in table

1.01	
ACI	ACI 318–19 Building C
AISI	AISI S230-18 Standard for Cold-Formed Steel Framing- Prescriptive Method for 1&2FD
ANSI	ANSI A108 American National Standard Specifications for the Installation of Ceramic Tile Material & Installation Standards
ASCE	ASCE 7-16 with Supplement 1—Minimum Design Loads and Associated Criteria for Buildings and other Structures
ASHRAE	ASHRAE 62.2–2019 Ventilation & Acceptable Indoor Air Quality in Residential Buildings
ASTM	ASTM C926–21 Standard Specification for Application of Portland Cement-Based Plaster
ASTM	ASTM C1063–22 Standard Specification for Installation of Lathing and Furring to Receive Interior and Exterior Portland Cement Plaster
AWC	NDS-2018 National Design Specification for Wood Construction
AWC	WFCM-2018 Wood Frame Construction Manual for One- and Two-Family Dwellings
ICC	2021 International Building Code
ICC	2021 International Residential Code
NFPA	NFPA 13D Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in 1- & 2-Family Dwellings
NFPA	NFPA 72 National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code
NFPA	NFPA 211 Standard for Chimneys, Fireplaces, Vents & Solid Fuel-Burning Appliances
SBCA	BCSI—2018 Building Component Safety Information Guide to Good Practice for Handling, Installing, Restraining & Bracing of Metal Plate-Connected Wood Trusses
TMS	TMS 402–16 Building Code Requirements for Masonry Structures
TMS	TMS 602–16 Specifications for Masonry Structures
TPI	TPI 1–2014 National Design Standard for Metal Plate-Connected Wood Truss Construction

16 and illustrated in figure 42.

Abbreviations are used to save space, as in this example from p. 7:

L&L fire-rated boxes (plastics) allowed in walls AMI F2 ______ 302.4.2X2 This line tells us that "listed and labeled" (L&L) electrical boxes are allowed in rated wall membranes if installed "in accordance with manufacturer's instructions" (AMI) and as shown in figure 2. The "X" in the code citation references an exception in the code, i.e., it refers here to exception 2 to section 302.4.2. The abbreviations are explained on **p. 1**. Specialized terms used in the book are found in the glossary on **p. 49**.

The information in this book is believed to be accurate; however, it is not intended as a substitute for the full text of the referenced codes. Publication by the The Taunton Press, ICC, and the authors should not be considered by the user to be a substitute for the enforceable interpretation of the local building department.



Benjamin Franklin was chosen as the main character in our illustrations for a number of reasons. His insatiable curiosity, scientific genius, and civic-mindedness drove him to promote fire safety, public sanitation, heating methods that improved efficiency and reduced pollution, safe exits, and, of course, electricity. Franklin made major contributions to each of the four main disciplines of building inspection: Building, Plumbing, Mechanical, and Electrical.



CODE CHECK *"YOUR KEY TO THE CODES."*

For updates, additional tables & information on the Building & Residential Codes, visit: www.codecheck.com

The inside cover lists the codes and standards that are used in the book, along with examples of the shorthand conventions that are used. Code Check' Building Fifth Edition

By DOUGLAS HANSEN, SKIP WALKER & REDWOOD KARDON Illustrations by Paddy Morrissey, Kala Mathewson & Douglas Hansen

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Based on Chapters 1-11 of the 2021 edition of the International Residential Code including annotated changes from the 2018 edition

Context Building Sthr edition is a condensed guide to codes used for light-frame residential contenction. The primary references are the the 2021 International Residential Code (RC) and dealing portions of Right Code (RC) The RC is used for 1-4 5-4 shares dealing the Code (RC) and Code (RC) and Code (RC) and Code (RC) and dealing the Code (RC) and Code (RC) and Code (RC) and Code (RC) and code of the RC, and for multitamily and commercial buildings.

WALL BRACING

ROOFING

ROOF FRAMING • TRUSSES

STUCCO * INTERIOR WALL COVERING



39

43

47

37 ATTICS + DECKS + BALCONIES

41 ROOFING . EXTERIOR WALL COVERING

45 WINDOWS + GLASS + FIREPLACES

The print edition has 86 illustrations and 61 tables. These are referenced in the text along with the code number that applies to them.

FLOOR FRAMING



21 IRC

21 IRC

3171

502.3.1

502.3.2

502.3.3

502.4

502.6

502.6

50281

502.3.3

- All joist ends require lateral restraint: blocking, attachment to rim joists or full depth header, or attachment to adjoining stud F41 502.7 Blocking min. 2× material & full depth of joist F41 502.7 502.7X2 Blocking also required at intermediate supports in SDC D
- Lateral restraint of engineered lumber AMI 502.7X1
- □ Joists >2 × 12 require bridging or continuous 1-in. × 3-in. strip
- across bottom of joists at max. 8-ft. intervals 50271



		0 11	chimneys (see p	. 47) _ 1003.18
TABLE 16	NOTCHING	& BORING JO	ISTS & GIRDE	RS ♦ 502.8.1
Nominal ^a Dimension Joist or Girder	Max. Diameter Bored Hole	Max. Notch Length	Max. Notch Depth Outer 1⁄3	Max. Depth End Notch
6	1 ½ in. ^B	1 ¹³ /16 in.	% in.	1% in.
8	2¾ in.	2¾ in.	1 ³ /16 in.	1 ¹ 3/16 in.
10	31/16 in.	31/16 in.	1 ½ in.	2 ⁵ /16 in.

Single trimmers carrying single headers max. 3 ft. to trimmer bearing 502.10

Headers & trimmers require bearing support or approved joist hangers 502.6

Double trimmers for openings >3 ft. from trimmer bearing points

Double headers & trimmers when header span >4 ft.

trimmers

sts allowed max. 4-ft. span _

21 IRC

502.10

502.10

502.10

502.10

33/4 in. 33/4 in. 1% in. 213/16 in. 12 A. Table numbers based on actual (not nominal) dimensions: typically 51/2, 71/4, 91/4, and 111/4. B. Though 1/3 depth would be 113/16 in., a hole that size would be <2 in. from the edge in 51/2-in. material

FIG. 42 Notching & Boring Joists & Girders





need for those documents include areas where soluble sulfates in the soil will be in contact with concrete or where adverse environmental conditions exist. ACI documents provide guidelines for admixtures to deal with these conditions. Slabon-grade construction of single-family homes and townhouses is sometimes done with post-tensioned concrete, which then falls under the requirements of the IBC and ACI 318-19.

Materials & Placement	21 IRC
☐ Materials & testing to conform to ACI 318 & ACI 332	T1 402.2
Min. compressive strength 2,500 psi & per T14	402.2 & 404.1.3.3.1
Cements per ASTM C150, C595 & C1157	402.2.1 & 608.5.1.1
Mixing & delivery per ASTM C94 & C685	402.2.1 & 608.5.1.2
☐ Max. aggregate size 1/5 distance between forms or 3/4 c	listance between
reinforcement bars or between bar & side of form 4	04.1.3.3.3 & 608.5.1.3
Max. slump if removable forms 6 in. F34 4	04.1.3.3.4 & 608.5.1.4
□ Slump w/ stay-in-place forms >6 in. per ASTM C143 4	04.1.3.3.4 & 608.5.1.4
□ Thoroughly work around rebar & into corners 4	04.1.3.3.5 & 608.5.1.6
□ Immersion-vibrate stay-in-place forms (ICF) 4	04.1.3.3.5 & 608.5.1.6
Cold joint reinforcement min. 12 in. each side of joint	404.1.3.3.7.8 & 608.5.5

If a decided failing away or shearing off of a portion of concrete or portion of the mass occurs, disregard test and make a new test on another sample. Two consecutive failed tests are grounds to reject the concrete.

In general, concrete >2,500 psi requires special inspections and tests conducted by an approved agency, except for concrete that supports light-frame construction \leq 3 stories above grade plane. The IRC does not address testing for areas requiring >2,500 psi concrete in **T14**, and pumped concrete will be >2,500 psi. Environmental, climate, or soils issues may necessitate testing even for buildings within the scope of the IRC, and testing is required for commercial construction. A design professional will specify which tests are needed, and building jurisdictions typically have a list of approved agencies qualified to perform special testing. ICC provides certification for special inspectors of concrete work.

Special Inspections

	-							
🗌 Арр	proved a	gency t	o be in	depende	nt of	contractor	performing work	_1703.1.1
							1	

	_
□ Special inspections of concrete required EXC170	5.3 & 1901.6
 Fully supported footings supporting ≤3 stories above grade pl 	ane
of light-frame construction, prescriptively designed & based	
on specified compressive strength ≤2,500 psi	1705.3X2
 Nonstructural slabs supported directly on the ground 	1705.3X3
 Prescriptive concrete foundation walls per IBC T1807.1.6.2 	1705.3X4
 Patios, sidewalks & driveways on grade 	1705.3X5
No welding of reinforcing bars w/o special inspection	1705.3.1

21 IBC

Deck Footings & Posts

21 IRC

507.455

507.556

507.5.1

507.5.2

507.5.2

- Concrete footing or other approved structural system required EXC 507.3
- Freestanding decks of joists directly supported on grade 507.3X1 · Freestanding decks of joists bearing directly on concrete pier blocks,
- 507.3X2⁵³ max. area 200 sq. ft., max. 20 in. above grade within 36 in. 070
- Footings min. 12 in. below undisturbed ground surface ☐ Min. footing size per T507.3.1 507.3.15
- Post min. size per T507.4
- Posts bearing on footings require lateral restraint from manufactur
- connectors or min. embedment of 12 in. in soils or concrete EXC 507.4.1 507.4.1X • Expansive or other questionable soils not OK for lateral support

Deck Beams

- Beam plies fastened w/ 2 rows 10d nails 16 in. o.c e.ch edge 507.5
- Beam spans per T507.5
- Beams permitted to cantilever at each end to 1/4 of beam span 507.5 507.5.1
- Ends of beams require min. 11/2 in. bearing on wood or metal
- □ Multiple-span beams bearing on intermediate pos must have each ply bearing on the post
- Deck beam connections must resist horizontal displacement
- MFR connectors AMI, bolts require washers under read & nut

Deck Joists

- □ Joist spans, cantilevers & spacing per T507.6 & T48
- Ends of joists require min. 11/2 in. bearing on wood or me
- □ Joists bearing on top of multiple-ply beam or ledger can be aileo
- Mechanical connection if bearing on top of single-ply beam or
- □ Joists bearing into side of beam or ledger require joist hangers
- Ends & bearing locations require lateral restraint
- Blocking & joist hangers min. 60% of joist depth
- Rim joist secured to each joist w/ min. 3 10d nails or 3 in. screws

TABLE 48	MAX. O.C.	JOIST SPACIN	G IN INCHES	₿ ◆	
Weed Cine	Decking Perper	ndicular to Joist	Decking Diag	iona	
Wood Size	Single Span ^B	Multiple Span ^B	Single Span ^B	Multiple Span ^B	
1¼ in. thick	12	15	8	12	
2 in. thick	24	24	18	24	
	rom perpendicular. ists considered single	span. Support by ≥ 3	joists considered mult	iple span.	
Decking □ Max. joist sp □ Min. 2 8d th	bacing T48 readed nails or s	crews attachmen stic composite o	nt to joists	21 IRC 507.7	
 Per F507.9.2 each hold-d Per F507.9.2 each hold-d Deck Guards 	2(1) within 24 in own (used when 2(2) at 4 evenly c own (used when	es to Restrain of each end of c floor joists paral stributed locatio hoor joists perp w/ continuous pa	leck. Min. 1,500 lel to deck joists ons. Min. 750-lb. endicular to deck	-lb. capacity) 507.9.2 capacity (joists) 507.9.2	
to adjacent j Connections 4-in. × 4-in	joist or beam req s relying on facto posts supporting	o side of joist or l uired to prevent mers in end grain g guard loads not oporting structure	rotation - prohibited t to be		'
 54. The table now in previous lower I now allowed. The eliminating that 55. The new table fc code, and now i loads. Posts w/ 56. The beam span from those that amount of joist of 57. The joist span ta back span. 58. The joist spacing 	ncludes smaller tributa imit of 12 in. × 12 in. I e column for 2,500 p; column is not significa or post heights is sign includes adjustments f small tributary areas a table was expanded fa are PT. The "effective cantilever. Previous taf able was expanded for	ficantly expanded from for the tributary area sur- re now allowed taller h or ground snow loads- ioist span" supported lole was a half page; ne ground snow loads. C to include both single	llowances for smaller I ound footings or 7-in ininated. Since interpol n the simple version th upported by each post neights than in 2018. and the lines for NDW by beams includes a f sw table is 4 pages. Cantilevers are now ba	footings than the square footings he at was in the 2018 at was in the 2018 and for ground snow V are now separate actor based on the used upon the actual	

Ledgers

- Attachment to exterior wall requires positive anchoring for vertical & 311.5 & 507.8 lateral loads-no toenails or nails subject to withdrawal _
- ☐ If positive attachment cannot be verified, deck must be self-supporting 507.8
- Ledgers min. 2 × 8 nominal PPT or NDW #2 grade 507.9.1.1
- □ Flashing required to prevent water entry 703.4
- Ledgers not OK to support loads from beams or girders 507.9.1.1
- Ledgers cannot be supported on stone/masonry veneer 507.9.1.1 & 703.8.3 Band joists supporting ledger min. 2 in. nominal (or engineered wood) 507.9.1.2
- □ Band joists must fully bear on primary structure (no cantilever) 507.9.1.2
- Ledger attachment per **T49**, **F68**,69 or approved equivalent 507.9.1.360
- □ Lateral loads must transfer to ground or through structure to ground 507.9.2

FIG. 68

40 psf live load

50 psf around snow load

60 psf around snow load

70 psf around snow load



Code changes from the previous edition are highlighted in the text. A summary explanation of them is included in the footnotes at the bottom of the page.

								0.1.0(1)	
							6	18	
							in.)		
	1/2-in. lag screw w/ 1/2-in. max. sheathing ^A F68	30	23	18	15	13	11	10	
	1/2-in. bolt w/ 1/2-in. max. sheathing ^ F68 B	36	36	34	29	24	21	19	
	1/2 -in. bolt w/ 1-in. max. sheathing ^B F68 C	36	36	29	24	21	18	16	
	1/2-in. lag screw w/ 1/2-in. max. sheathing ^A F68	29	22	17	14	12	11	9	
	1⁄2-in. bolt w/ 1⁄2-in. max. sheathing ^ F68 B	36	36	33	27	23	20	18	
	¹ ⁄2-in. bolt w/ 1-in. max. sheathing ^B F68 C	36	35	28	23	20	17	15	
	1⁄2-in. lag screw w/ 1⁄2-in. max. sheathing ^A F68	25	18	15	12	10	9	8	
	1⁄2-in. bolt w/ 1⁄2-in. max. sheathing ^A F68 B	36	35	28	23	20	17	15	
	¹ ⁄2-in. bolt w/ 1-in. max. sheathing ^B F68 	36	30	24	20	17	15	13	
	1/2-in. lag screw w/ 1/2-in. max. sheathing ^A F68	22	16	13	11	9	8	7	
	1/2-in. bolt w/ 1/2-in. max. sheathing ^A F68 B	36	31	25	20	17	15	13	
	¹ ⁄2-in. bolt w/ 1-in. max. sheathing ^B F68 C	35	26	21	17	15	13	11	

A. WSP sheathing or solid-sawn lumber. B. WSP, SFB, GB, lumber, foam. Up to ½-in. of stacked washers permitted w/ WSP or lumber.



The table was expanded for ground snow loads.

ATTICS DECKS BALCONIES

21 IRC