



New Update to the NJ Fire Code

RE: Mulch / Combustible Landscape Materials

On April 15, 2024 The State of New Jersey Division of Fire Safety adopted the 2018 International Fire Code, New Jersey Edition. This change will be effective April 15, 2025.

Section 305.6 Landscape Materials

The use of combustible materials, such as wood-based mulch products, is **prohibited** in any of the following conditions:

1. Within 18 inches of any building or structure;
2. Within 18 inches of a deck, porch, balcony, or any other portion of the building constructed of combustible material; or
3. Within 18 inches of any designated smoking area defined in section 310.2

Exception:

1. Live plant material such as shrubs, flowers and trees provided that they are not located within 18 inches of the building or structure or beneath a combustible overhang with less than 6 feet of clearance.
2. Non-combustible building or structure exteriors that have no combustible components or trim with less than 3 feet clearance from grade.
3. Fire resistant mulch.

Section 305.7 Existing Materials

This provision shall become operative **April 15, 2025** [12 months after the effective date], all occupancies subject to this code shall remove all combustible landscape materials that are located within 18 inches of the foundation of any building or structure or the area of any designated smoking area. This product may be replaced with non-combustible materials such as stone or sand.

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