

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY



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Building Official

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Building Code - Design Criteria

Updated August 9, 2005

Effective Editions of the Building Code:	2000 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) (May be downloaded free from www.vbcoa.org)
One & Two Family Residential Construction:	2000 International Residential Code (I.R.C.) (May be purchased from www.iccsafe.org)
All other Construction:	2000 International Building Code 2000 International Fuel Gas Code 2000 International Mechanical Code 2000 International Plumbing Code 1999 National Electric Code (NFPA 70) Handicapped Accessibility - CABO/ANSI A117-92 (May be purchased from www.iccsafe.org)

AFTER November 14, 2005

Effective Editions of the Building Code:	2003 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) (May be downloaded free from www.vbcoa.org)
One & Two Family Residential Construction:	2003 International Residential Code (I.R.C.) (May be purchased from www.iccsafe.org)
All other Construction:	2003 International Building Code 2003 International Fuel Gas Code 2003 International Mechanical Code 2003 International Plumbing Code 2002 National Electric Code (NFPA 70) Handicapped Accessibility - CABO/ANSI A117-98 (May be purchased from www.iccsafe.org)
Design Wind Speed:	110 miles per hour
Wind Exposures:	B in towns, C elsewhere
Ground Snow Load:	10 pounds per square foot
Frost Line:	12 inches below final grade to bottom of the footing
Earthquake / Seismic zone:	A
Virginia Architect / Engineer Seals Required:	When required by Code of Virginia Section 54.1-402; for construction within 1500 feet of the Chesapeake Bay or Seaside bodies of water; for structures over 3 stories in height; for unusual construction.

Local Amendment to USBC – Soils Policy: The State of Virginia has identified soils in the Northampton County area as potential shrink-swell soils. All footings must have a minimum of 2 runs of #4 or larger re-bar placed in the lower half of the footing. Footings wider than 16 inches must have one run of re-bar for every 8 inches (or portion thereof) of footing width. Persons wishing to place footings without re-bar must submit a report from a Va. Licensed soils engineer, stating that the footings are adequate to support the structure without re-bar, and that shrink-swell soils will not adversely affect the structure.