



VOORHEES TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

Office of the Fire Marshal

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Update to the NJ Uniform Fire Code Mulch / Combustible Landscape Materials

Effective: April 15, 2025

Business Owner/Manager,

This is a reminder that on April 15, 2024, the State of New Jersey Division of Fire Safety adopted the 2018 International Fire Code (IFC), New Jersey Edition as part of the Uniform Fire Code. Specific new sections 305.6 and 305.7 of the 2018 IFC NJ Edition, will have a one-year period before they become operative. This change will affect the use of combustible landscape materials or “mulch” in all applications. (except for owner-occupied, one and two family or attached single family dwellings used exclusively for dwelling purposes).

305.6 Landscape Materials. The use of combustible landscape materials, such as wood-based mulch products, is prohibited in **ANY** of the following conditions:

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

Exceptions:

- Live plant material such as shrubs, flowers, and trees if not within 18 inches of the building or structure or beneath a combustible overhang with less than 6 feet of clearance.
- Non-combustible building or structure exteriors that have no combustible components or trim with less than 3 feet clearance from grade.
- Fire resistant mulch. 305.7 Existing materials. This provision shall become operative 12 months after the effective date of these rules, 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 around any designated smoking area. This product may be replaced with non-combustible materials such as stone or sand.

Thanking you in advance for your assistance,

Thomas O'Brien

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