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NJ FIRE CODE UPDATE

EFFECTIVE APRIL 15, 2025

As of April 15, 2025 a new regulation for non-combustible mulch will take effect throughout New Jersey. The following regulations apply to all uses and buildings excluding owner-occupied one or two family dwellings 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:

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

Exceptions: Live plant material such as shrubs, flowers and trees provide that they are not beneath a combustible overhang with less than 6 feet clearance.

1. Non-combustible building of structures exteriors that have no combustible components or trim with less than 3 feet clearance from grade.

305.7 Existing Materials. This provision shall become operative on April 15, 2025, 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 in the area of any designated smoking area. This product may be replaced with non-combustible materials such as stone or sand.

If you have any questions regarding these regulations please contact our office.