
DEFINED TERMS

2024 Ontario Building Code Changes

These are highlights only. A digital copy of the 2024 Building Code Compendium is available on the [provincial website](#).

There are approximately 20 new definitions added to Division A 1.4.1.2:

Adfreezing means the adhesion of soil to a foundation unit resulting from the freezing of soil water.

(Also referred to as “frost grip”)

Agricultural occupancy (Group G) means the occupancy of a building or part thereof that is located on land that is associated with and devoted to the practice of farming, and is used for the purpose of producing crops, raising farm animals, or preparing, marketing, storing or processing agricultural products.

Agricultural occupancy with no human occupants (Group G, Division 4) means an agricultural occupancy that is not intended to be occupied by persons under normal use and is generally used for the storage of agricultural materials and by-products.

Alloyed zinc means an alloy of zinc having the corrosion resistance and physical properties of an alloy containing 0.15% titanium, 0.74% copper and 99.11% zinc, and so tempered as to be capable of being formed into the shape required for watertight joint.

Back pressure means pressure higher than the supply pressure.

Braced wall panel means a portion of a wood-frame wall where bracing, sheathing, cladding or interior finish is designed and installed to provide the required resistance to lateral loads due to wind or earthquake.

Braced wall band means an imaginary continuous straight band extending vertically and horizontally through the building or part of the building, within which braced wall panels are constructed.

Carbon monoxide alarm means a carbon monoxide detection device with an integral audible alarm device designed to sound an alarm within the room, suite or space in which it is located when the concentration of airborne carbon monoxide exceeds a pre-determined level and duration.

Combustible dusts means dusts and particles that are ignitable and liable to produce an explosion.

Demountable stage means a structure that

- (a) consists of one or more platforms together with any wall, roof or other structures attached to or located on any of the platforms,
- (b) is intended to be used for public or private performances or events, other than performances or events associated with movie or television productions,
- (c) is intended to be erected, assembled or installed for a limited specified time.
- (d) is capable of being dismantled at its location and moved to be reconstituted elsewhere or is erected for one-time use,
- (e) is not located inside a fully enclosed building
- (f) is primarily for use by performers and workers, and
- (g) may or may not be mounted on wheels

Demountable support structure means any structure that

- (a) is capable of supporting banners, stage sets, props, sound equipment, lighting equipment or other equipment,
- (b) is intended to be used for public or private performances or events, other than performances or events associated with movie or television productions,
- (c) is intended to be erected, assembled or installed for a limited specified time,
- (d) is capable of being dismantled at its location and moved to be reconstituted elsewhere or is erected for one-time use,
- (e) is not attached to or located on a demountable stage,
- (f) is not located inside a fully enclosed building,
- (g) is primarily for use by performers and workers, and
- (h) may or may not be mounted on wheels.

Greenhouse agricultural occupancy (Group G, Division 3) means an agricultural building or part thereof that is primarily constructed of roofs and walls designed to transmit natural light.

High-hazard agricultural occupancy (Group G, Division 1) means an agricultural occupancy containing sufficient quantities of highly combustible and flammable or explosive materials which, because of their inherent characteristics, constitute a special fire hazard.

Mechanically vented (as applying to a fuel-fired space-or water-heating appliance) means an appliance

and its combustion venting system in which the products of combustion are entirely exhausted to the outdoors by a mechanical device, such as a fan, blower or aspirator, upstream or downstream from the combustion zone of the appliance, and the portion of the combustion venting system that is downstream of the fan, blower or aspirator is sealed and does not include draft hoods or draft control devices.

Nominal pipe size (NPS) means the nominal diameter by which a pipe, fitting, trap or other similar item is commercially designated

Protected floor space means that part of a floor area protected from the effects of fire and used as part of a means of egress from an interconnected floor space.

Ramp means a path of travel having a slope steeper than 1 in 20.

Rim joist means the outermost member in floor framing, other than blocking, be it parallel, perpendicular or on an angle to the floor joists.

Secondary Suite means a self-contained dwelling unit located in a building or portion of a building of only residential occupancy that contains only one other dwelling unit and common spaces, and where both dwelling units constitute a single real estate entity.

Underpinning means the process of strengthening the foundation or lowering the level of a foundation of an existing building.