

# NORTHAMPTON COUNTY



Building Department  
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## Building Code - Design Criteria

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|---|---|
| Applicable Codes:                             | 2009 Va. Uniform Statewide Building Code (Download: <a href="http://www.vbcoa.org">www.vbcoa.org</a> )<br>2009 International Code Series<br>2008 NFPA 70 – National Electric Code |
| 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  |
| Climate Zone / Heating Degree days:           | IRC – Zone 8 / IECC – Zone 4 / Heating Degree Days Norfolk -3421  |
| 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 tidal salt 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.