



East Brunswick Fire Prevention Districts 1, 2 & 3



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New Updates in the International Fire Code New Jersey Edition
Mulch/Combustible Landscape Materials
Effective: April 15, 2025.

On April 15th 2025, the new regulations regarding mulch/combustible landscape materials becomes effective. This change will affect the use of combustible landscape material or “mulch” in all applications with the exception of owner occupied, one and two family or attached single family dwellings used exclusively for dwelling purposes. These new regulations were adopted with much support to prevent mulch fires that cause property damage, injuries and death.

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:

1. Live plant material such as shrubs, flowers and trees provided that they are not located within 18 inches of the building or structure or beneath a combustible overhang with less than 6 feet of clearance.
2. Non-combustible building or structure exteriors that have no combustible components or trim with less than 3 feet clearance from grade.
3. Fire resistive 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 in the area of many designated smoking areas. This product may be replaced with non-combustible materials such as stone and sand.

***Mulch does not need to be removed entirely. Mulch cannot be within 18 inches of the building.**