

2021 Virginia Construction Code

CHAPTER 16 STRUCTURAL DESIGN

SECTION 1608 SNOW LOADS

1608.1 General.

Design snow *loads* shall be determined in accordance with Chapter 7 of ASCE 7, but the design roof *load* shall be not less than that determined by Section 1607.

1608.2 Ground snow loads.

The ground snow *loads* to be used in determining the design snow *loads* for roofs shall be determined in accordance with ASCE 7 or Figures 1608.2(1) and 1608.2(2) for the contiguous United States and Table 1608.2 for Alaska. Site-specific case studies shall be made in areas designated "CS" in Figures 1608.2(1) and 1608.2(2). Ground snow *loads* for sites at elevations above the limits indicated in Figures 1608.2(1) and 1608.2(2) and for all sites within the CS areas shall be *approved*. Ground snow *load* determination for such sites shall be based on an extreme value statistical analysis of data available in the vicinity of the site using a value with a 2-percent annual probability of being exceeded (50-year mean recurrence interval). Snow loads are zero for Hawaii, except in mountainous regions as *approved* by the *building official*.

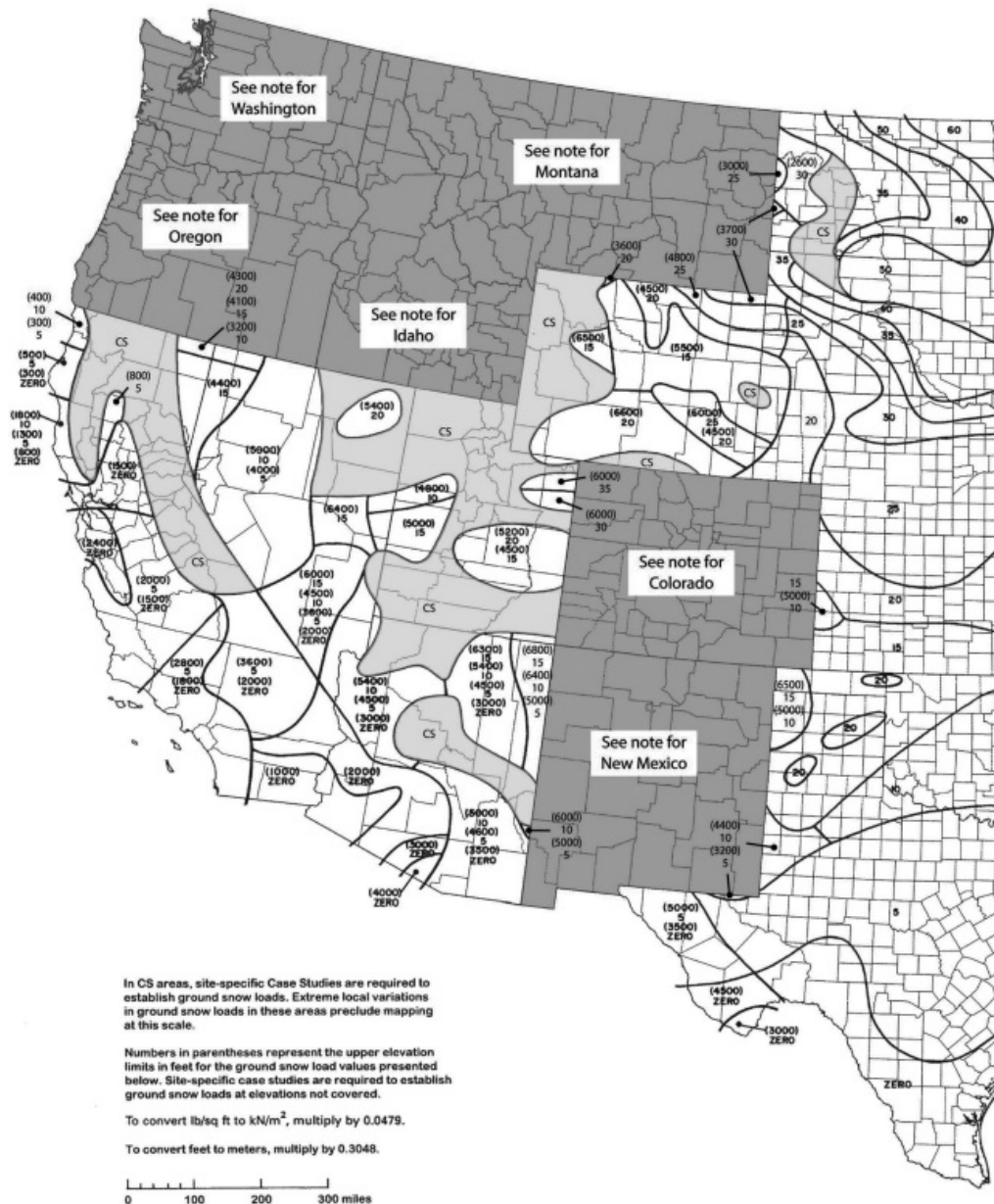
TABLE 1608.2
GROUND SNOW LOADS, p_g , FOR ALASKAN LOCATIONS

LOCATION	POUNDS PER SQUARE FOOT
Adak	30
Anchorage	50
Angoon	70
Barrow	25
Barter Island	35
Bethel	40
Big Delta	50
Cold Bay	25
Cordova	100
Fairbanks	60
Fort Yukon	60
Galena	60
Gulkana	70
Homer	40
Juneau	60
Kenai	70
Kodiak	30
Kotzebue	60
McGrath	70
Nenana	80
Nome	70
Palmer	50
Petersburg	150
St. Paul Islands	40
Seward	50
Shemya	25
Sitka	50
Talkeetna	120
Unalakleet	50
Valdez	160
Whittier	300
Wrangell	60
Yakutat	150

For SI: 1 pound per square foot = 0.0479 kN/m².

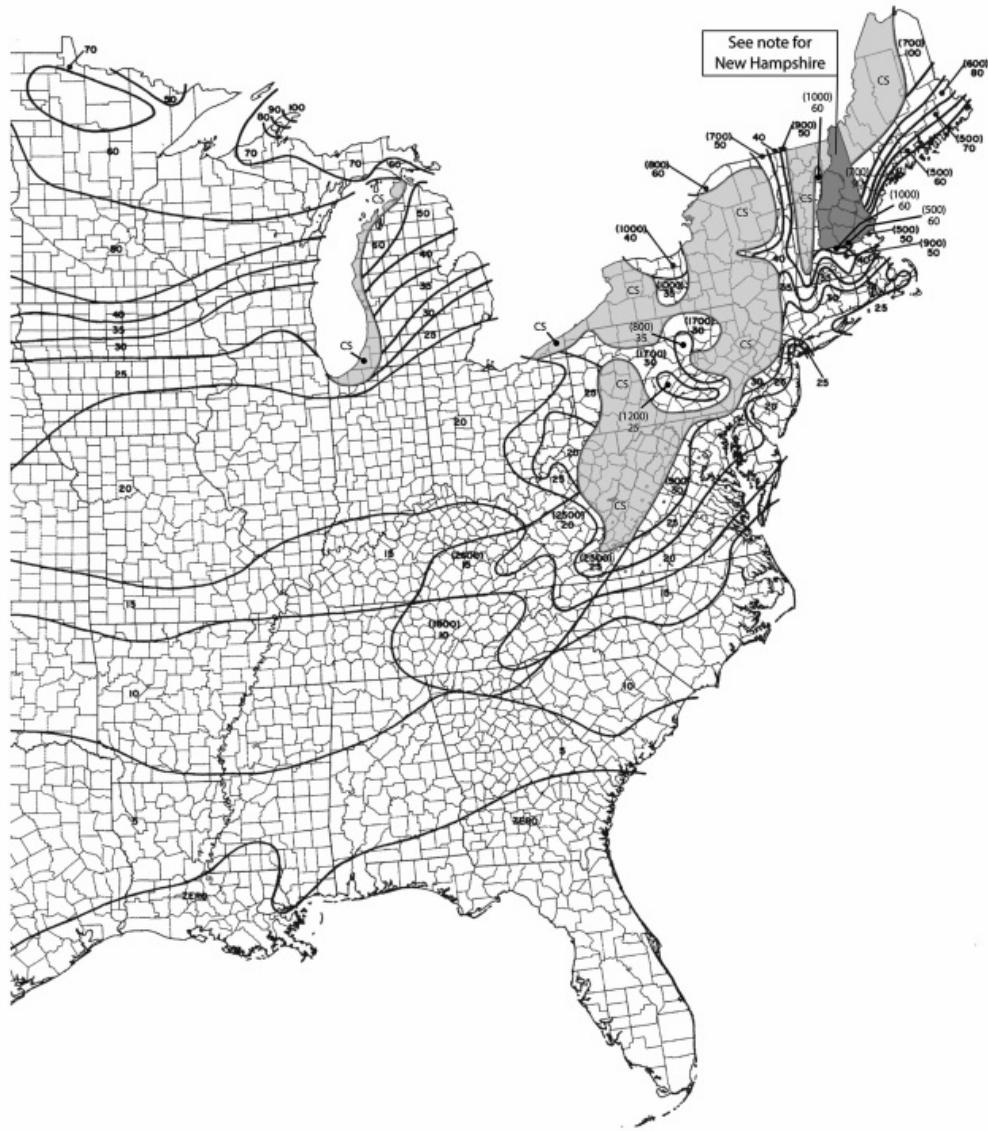
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NOTE: See [ASCE 7](#) Table 7.2-2 for Colorado, Table 7.2-3 for Idaho, Table 7.2-4 for Montana, Table 7.2-5 for Washington, Table 7.2-6 for New Mexico and Table 7.2-7 for Oregon.

FIGURE 1608.2(1)
GROUND SNOW LOADS, p_g , FOR THE UNITED STATES (psf)



NOTE: See [ASCE 7](#) Table 7.2-8 for New Hampshire.

FIGURE 1608.2(2)
GROUND SNOW LOADS, p_g , FOR THE UNITED STATES (psf)

1608.3 Ponding instability.

Susceptible bays of roofs shall be evaluated for ponding instability in accordance with [Chapters 7](#) and [8](#) of [ASCE 7](#).