

2021 Virginia Construction Code
CHAPTER 8 INTERIOR FINISHES
SECTION 806
DECORATIVE MATERIALS AND TRIM

[F] 806.1 General.

The following requirements shall apply to all occupancies:

1. Furnishings or *decorative materials* of an *explosive* or highly flammable character shall not be used.
2. Fire-retardant coatings in existing buildings shall be maintained so as to retain the effectiveness of the treatment under service conditions encountered in actual use.
3. Furnishings or other objects shall not be placed to obstruct exits, access thereto, egress therefrom or visibility thereof.
4. The permissible amount of decorative vegetation and noncombustible *decorative materials* shall not be limited.

806.2 Combustible decorative materials.

In other than Group I-3, curtains, draperies, fabric hangings and similar combustible decorative materials suspended from walls or ceilings shall comply with [Section 806.4](#) and shall not exceed 10 percent of the specific wall or ceiling area to which it is attached.

Fixed or movable walls and partitions, paneling, wall pads, and crash pads applied structurally or for decoration, acoustical correction, surface insulation, or other purposes shall be considered interior finish, shall comply with [Section 803](#), and shall not be considered decorative materials or furnishings

Exceptions:

1. In auditoriums or similar types of spaces in Group A, the permissible amount of curtains, draperies, fabric hangings, and similar combustible *decorative materials* suspended from walls or ceilings shall not exceed 75 percent of the aggregate wall area where the *building* is equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.1](#), and where the material is installed in accordance with [Section 803.15](#) of this code.
2. In auditoriums or similar types of spaces in Group A, the permissible amount of decorative materials suspended from the ceiling, located no more than 12 inches (305 mm) from the wall, not supported by the floor and meeting the flame propagation performance criteria of [NFPA 701](#), shall not exceed 75 percent of the aggregate wall area when the *building* is equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.1](#).
3. In Group R-2 dormitories, within sleeping units and dwelling units, the permissible amount of curtains, draperies, fabric hangings and similar *decorative materials* suspended from walls or ceiling shall not exceed 50 percent of the aggregate walls areas where the building is equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with [Section 903.3.1](#).
4. In Groups B and M occupancies, the amount of combustible fabric partitions suspended from the ceiling and not supported by the floor shall comply with [Section 806.4](#) and shall not be limited.

806.3 Occupancy-based requirements.

Occupancy-based requirements for combustible *decorative materials*, other than decorative vegetation, not complying with [Section 806.4](#) shall comply with [Sections 807.5.1](#) through [807.5.6](#) of the *International Fire Code*.

[F] 806.4 Acceptance criteria and reports.

Where required to exhibit improved fire performance, curtains, draperies, fabric hangings and similar combustible *decorative materials* suspended from walls or ceilings shall be tested by an *approved agency* and meet the flame propagation performance criteria of Test 1 or 2, as appropriate, of [NFPA 701](#), or exhibit a maximum heat release rate of 100 kW when tested in accordance with [NFPA 289](#), using the 20 kW ignition source. Reports of test results shall be prepared in accordance with the test method used and furnished to the *building official* on request.

[F] 806.5 Foam plastic.

Foam plastic used as *trim* in any occupancy shall comply with [Section 2604.2](#).

[F] 806.6 Pyroxylin plastic.

Imitation leather or other material consisting of or coated with a pyroxylin or similarly hazardous base shall not be used in Group A occupancies.

[F] 806.7 Interior trim.

Material, other than foam plastic used as interior *trim*, shall have a minimum Class C *flame spread* and *smoke-developed index* when tested in accordance with [ASTM E84](#) or [UL 723](#), as described in [Section 803.1.2](#). Combustible *trim*, excluding

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handrails and guardrails, shall not exceed 10 percent of the specific wall or ceiling area to which it is attached.

[F] 806.8 Interior floor-wall base.

Interior floor-wall base that is 6 inches (152 mm) or less in height shall be tested in accordance with [Section 804.2](#) and shall be not less than Class II. Where a Class I floor finish is required, the floor-wall base shall be Class I.

Exception: Interior trim materials that comply with [Section 806.7](#).

[F] 806.9 Combustible lockers.

Where lockers constructed of combustible materials are used, the lockers shall be considered to be *interior finish* and shall comply with [Section 803](#).

Exception: Lockers constructed entirely of wood and noncombustible materials shall be permitted to be used wherever interior finish materials are required to meet a Class C classification in accordance with [Section 803.1.2](#).