

2021 Virginia Construction Code

CHAPTER 14 EXTERIOR WALLS

SECTION 1403 MATERIALS

1403.1 General.

Materials used for the construction of exterior walls shall comply with the provisions of this section. Materials not prescribed herein shall be permitted, provided that any such alternative has been approved.

1403.2 Water-resistive barrier.

Not fewer than one layer of [water-resistive barrier material](#) shall be attached to the studs or sheathing, with flashing as described in [Section 1404.4](#), in such a manner as to provide a continuous [water-resistive barrier](#) behind the exterior wall veneer.

[Water-resistive barriers](#) shall comply with one of the following:

1. No. 15 felt complying with ASTM D226, Type 1.
2. ASTM E2556, Type I or II.
3. ASTM E331 in accordance with [Section 1402.2](#).
4. Other approved materials installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions.

[BS] 1403.3 Wood.

Exterior walls of wood construction shall be designed and constructed in accordance with [Chapter 23](#).

[BS] 1403.3.1 Basic hardboard.

Basic hardboard shall conform to the requirements of [ANSI A135.4](#).

[BS] 1403.3.2 Hardboard siding.

Hardboard siding shall conform to the requirements of [ANSI A135.6](#) and, where used structurally, shall be so identified by the label of an approved agency.

[BS] 1403.4 Masonry.

Exterior walls of masonry construction shall be designed and constructed in accordance with this section and [Chapter 21](#). Masonry units, mortar and metal accessories used in anchored and adhered veneer shall meet the physical requirements of [Chapter 21](#). The backing of anchored and adhered veneer shall be of concrete, masonry, steel framing or wood framing. Continuous insulation meeting the applicable requirements of this code shall be permitted between the backing and the masonry veneer.

[BS] 1403.5 Metal.

Exterior walls constructed of coldformed or structural steel shall be designed in accordance with [Chapter 22](#). Exterior walls constructed of aluminum shall be designed in accordance with [Chapter 20](#).

[BS] 1403.5.1 Aluminum siding.

Aluminum siding shall conform to the requirements of [AAMA 1402](#).

[BS] 1403.5.2 Cold-rolled copper.

Copper shall conform to the requirements of [ASTM B370](#).

[BS] 1403.5.3 Lead-coated copper.

Lead-coated copper shall conform to the requirements of [ASTM B101](#).

[BS] 1403.6 Concrete.

Exterior walls of concrete construction shall be designed and constructed in accordance with [Chapter 19](#).

[BS] 1403.7 Glass-unit masonry

Exterior walls of glass-unit masonry shall be designed and constructed in accordance with [Chapter 21](#).

1403.8 Plastics.

Plastic panel, apron or spandrel walls as defined in this code shall not be limited in thickness, provided that such plastics and their assemblies conform to the requirements of [Chapter 26](#) and are constructed of approved weather-resistant materials of adequate strength to resist the wind loads for cladding specified in [Chapter 16](#).

1403.9 Vinyl siding.

Vinyl siding shall be certified and labeled as conforming to the requirements of [ASTM D3679](#) by an approved quality control agency.

1403.10 Fiber-cement siding.

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Fiber-cement siding shall conform to the requirements of [ASTM C1186](#), Type A (or [ISO 8336](#), Category A), and shall be so identified on labeling listing an *approved* quality control agency.

1403.11 Exterior insulation and finish systems.

Exterior insulation and finish systems (EIFS) and *exterior insulation and finish systems (EIFS) with drainage* shall comply with [Section 1407](#).

1403.12 Polypropylene siding.

Polypropylene siding shall be certified and labeled as conforming to the requirements of [ASTM D7254](#) and those of [Section 1403.12.1](#) or [1403.12.2](#) by an approved quality control agency. *Polypropylene siding* shall be installed in accordance with the requirements of [Section 1404.18](#) and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. *Polypropylene siding* shall be secured to the building so as to provide weather protection for the exterior walls of the building.

1403.12.1 Flame spread index.

The certification of the *flame spread index* shall be accompanied by a test report stating that all portions of the test specimen ahead of the flame front remained in position during the test in accordance with [ASTM E84](#) or [UL 723](#).

1403.12.2 Fire separation distance.

The *fire separation distance* between a building with *polypropylene siding* and the adjacent building shall be not less than 10 feet (3048 mm).

1403.13 Foam plastic insulation.

Foam plastic insulation used in *exterior wall covering* assemblies shall comply with [Chapter 26](#).

1403.14 Attachments through insulation.

Exterior wall coverings attached to the building structure through foam plastic insulating sheathing shall comply with the attachment requirements of [Section 2603.11](#), [2603.12](#), or [2603.13](#).