

**NC Department of Insurance
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division
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Nail Guards for Plastic Plumbing Pipe

Code: 2012 Plumbing Code
Section: 305.8

Date: September 1, 2011

Question:

Are nail guards required for plastic plumbing pipe?

Answer:

Yes, when the edge of the plastic plumbing pipe is less than 1.5 inches from the nearest edge of the stud, joist, rafter or similar member, the pipe shall be protected by shield plates. Protective shield plates shall be a minimum of 0.0575 inch-thick (16 gage). For holes in metal studs, nail guards are not required if the gage of the metal stud is equal to or greater than 0.0575 inch (16 gage).

The 1.5 inch depth mentioned above is based on the depth of the typical fastener penetrating through surface material covering the stud, joist, rafter or similar member and into the member itself. If these fasteners are expected to penetrate deeper than 1.5 inches into the stud, joist, rafter or similar member, then shield plates will be required at those locations as well.