

**NC Department of Insurance
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division
1202 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1202
919-647-0000**

Tempered Glass for Windows 9 Square Feet or More

Code: 2018 Residential Code

Date: March 22, 2019

Section: R308.4.3

Question:

If a window is 9 square feet or more, does it have to be tempered?

Answer:

Section R308.4.3 Glazing in windows. Glazing in an individual fixed or operable panel that meets **all** of the following conditions shall be considered to be a hazardous location:

1. The exposed area of a single pane is larger than 9 square feet,
2. The bottom edge of the glass is less than 18 inches above the floor,
3. The top edge of the glazing is more than 36 inches above the floor; and
4. One or more walking surfaces are within 36 inches, measured horizontally and in a straight line, of the glazing.

Exceptions:

1. Decorative glazing.
2. Where a horizontal rail is installed on the accessible side(s) of the glazing 34 to 38 inches above the walking surface. The rail shall be capable of withstanding a horizontal load of 50 pounds per linear foot without contacting the glass and have a cross-sectional height of not less than 1-1/2 inches.
3. Outboard panes in insulating glass units and other multiple glazed panels where the bottom edge of the glass is 25 feet or more above grade, a roof, walking surfaces or other horizontal [within 45 degrees of horizontal] surface adjacent to the glass exterior.

If any one of the 4 items in R308.4.3 are not met, then the window is not required to be tempered.

If either of the 3 exceptions in R308.4.3 are met then the glazing is not required to meet the safety glazing requirements of R308.4.3.

Keywords:

Hazardous location