

**NC Department of Insurance  
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division  
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**Continuous Footings at Garage Door Openings**

**Code:** 2018 Residential Code

**Date:** April 10, 2019

**Section:** R403.1

**Question:**

Are footings required to be continuous under garage door openings?

**Answer:**

No. Section R403.1 states in part that "all exterior walls shall be supported on continuous...footings." If there is no exterior wall, such as at a garage door opening, there is no requirement for a footing. Please note however that, if the opening is in a bearing wall, and the continuous footing is omitted, a properly designed spread footing must be provided at each side of the opening. This also applies to structures built in the 120 and higher Wind Zones.