

INFORMAL CODE INTERPRETATION

**NC Department of Insurance
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division
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Porch Column Attachment

Code: 2012 Residential Code

Date: July 2, 2012

Section: R407.3

Question:

Does the Residential Code require that posts, such as on a front porch or screened porch, be anchored?

Answer:

In 90 and 100 mph wind zones, section R407.3 requires "columns shall be restrained to prevent lateral displacement at the top and bottom ends". The International Residential Code Commentary gives some very general illustrations and indicates the bottom of the column to be "toenailed into a treated wood plate".

In addition, where uplift resistance is required by Sections R802.11.1 or R4508, a continuous load path must be provided to transmit the uplift force to the foundation. There are a number of off-the-shelf post bases or anchorage devices available for this purpose.