



Land Development Services

Technical Bulletin

Subject: Wood as Nonabsorbent Floor Material

Date: April 5, 2018

No.: 18-07

Summary: Refinement of wood as a nonabsorbent floor finish material for application in the building code regarding toilet and bathroom compartments.

Effective Date: Immediate

Background: This bulletin is to memorialize a long-standing accepted policy applied by Building Division staff. Provisions in the Virginia Construction Code require floor surfaces in and around identified plumbing fixtures to have a smooth, hard and nonabsorbent surface. Wood is considered absorbent and, depending on the species, soft.

Policy (Requirement or Guidelines): Wood floor finishes of any species are acceptable for installation in and around plumbing fixtures where a smooth, hard and nonabsorbent surface is required provided:

- The wood is sanded or milled smooth.
- The surface is waterproofed with a manufacturer-applied finish, two coatings minimum of polyurethane, or comparable waterproofing material.



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