



Yuma County Department of Development Services

2351 W. 26th Street, Yuma, AZ 85364

Freestanding Patio Structure Policy

1. Purpose:

To provide guidance for determining bracing requirements for freestanding patio and lattice patio structures. This policy is limited to structures used for outdoor living purposes (patios) as prescribed in Appendix H of the 2012 International Residential Code.

2. Legislative Authority:

2012 International Residential Code

3. Definitions:

Patio: A structure with open or glazed walls which is used for recreational, outdoor living purposes associated with a dwelling unit. Patios shall not be used as carports, garages, storage rooms or habitable space.

Freestanding: Not attached to, or supported by, another structure.

Lattice: The elevated horizontal portion of a patio serving as roof or ceiling, constructed to provide partial shade.

Knee Brace: A 45° stiffener between column (vertical) and a beam (horizontal) members in a building frame to make the structure more stable.

Registered Design Professional: An individual who is registered or licensed to practice their respective design profession as defined by the statutory requirements of the professional registration laws of the state or jurisdiction in which the project is to be constructed.

4. Policy:

Freestanding patios and *lattice patios* may be constructed without brace wall panels provided all of the following criteria are met:

1. The structure is not greater than 400 square feet.
2. The structure is provided with beams on all sides. Beams shall be positively anchored to each other and supporting post.
3. Post-to-beam and beam-to-beam hardware shall be installed that provides resistance to lateral motion. All hardware and connections shall be installed in accordance with the manufactures installation instructions.
4. The structure shall have *knee braces* installed from the post to the beam with appropriate hardware. *Knee braces* shall be provided on all sides of the structure. The minimum length of a *Knee brace* shall not be less than 25% of the post height.
5. Roof structure consists of an open *lattice* or flat roof; 1/12 pitch or less without tile roofing.
6. Post anchors shall be a type that are embedded in concrete footings and provide resistance to lateral motion.

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Free standing patio and lattice patio structures that do not meet all the requirements above shall be provided with foundations and brace wall panels as prescribed by the adopted building code or designed in accordance with acceptable engineering principles by a Registered Design Professional.