



Yuma County Department of Development Services

2351 W. 26th Street, Yuma, AZ 85364

Patio Bracing Policy

1. Purpose:

To clarify the application of bracing provisions of the 2012 International Residential Code (IRC); determine when a *Registered Design Professional* shall be required for patio structures attached to, or included as, part of a single-family dwelling. **NOTE:** The bracing provisions outlined in this policy are not cumulative and may only be used once per structure.

2. Scope:

Limited to patios attached to, or supported by, a site-built one- or two-family dwelling. This policy shall not apply to a patio or a roof structure used as an elevated deck.

3. Legislative Authority:

2012 International Residential Code

4. Definitions:

Patio: One-story structures not exceeding 12 feet in height, used for recreational purposes or outdoor living purposes only; not as carports, garages, storage rooms or habitable space.

Exterior Brace Wall Line: An imaginary line, along which a series of brace wall panels are constructed or offset in accordance with Section 602.10 for wood framing.

Parallel Trusses-Rafters: Roof framing members, or portions thereof, which are constructed or erected parallel to the exterior brace wall line from which they extend.

Perpendicular Trusses-Rafters: Roof framing members or portions thereof which are constructed or erected perpendicular to the exterior brace wall line from which they extend.

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.

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5. Policy:

1. Trussed Roofs/Rafter Roofs sloped greater than 1/12
 - a. Trusses-Rafters parallel to exterior brace wall line shall not extend more than 6'-0" beyond exterior brace wall line, unless provided with bracing in accordance with Section 602.10.
 - b. Trusses-Rafters perpendicular to an exterior brace wall line shall not extend more than 12'-0" beyond exterior wall, unless provided with additional bracing accordance with Section 602.10.
2. Roofs Sloped 1/12 or Less
 - a. Patio roofs sloped 1/12 or less shall not support tile or lightweight tile alternatives. Patios constructed in this manner shall not extend more than 16'-0" beyond exterior walls, unless provided with additional bracing in accordance with Section 602.10 for wood framing.
 - b. Patio structures shall have *knee braces* installed from the post to the beam with appropriate hardware. The minimum length of a *Knee brace* shall not be less than 25% of the post height.
 - c. Post anchors shall be a type that are embedded in concrete footings and provide resistance to lateral motion.

Patios constructed beyond the limitations identified above shall be designed in accordance with acceptable engineering practices by a *Registered Design Professional*.