

FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT GUIDE: FEMA TECHNICAL BULLETINS

FEMA's NFIP Technical Bulletins (TBs) give guidance for complying with the NFIP's building performance requirements contained in the Federal Regulations. These TBs help Montana's local officials interpret the NFIP regulations, and are also useful resources for homeowners, building professionals, and designers.

Where Can I Find It

What Does It Cover

Example

TB #2 FLOOD DAMAGE-RESISTANT MATERIALS

www.tinyurl.com/4275pbt9

Revised 2025



The NFIP requires the use of construction materials that are resistant to flood damage. This TB provides guidance on the NFIP regulations concerning the required use of flood-damage resistant construction materials for building components located below the Base Flood Elevation in the floodplain.



TB #1 FOUNDATION WALL OPENINGS & WALLS OF ENCLOSURES

www.tinyurl.com/23jybrcr

Revised 2020



Flood openings are intended to equalize hydrostatic forces (caused by the weight of water) on walls, thus preventing damage to or collapse of the building. TB #3 provides guidance on the NFIP regulations for the requirement for openings in enclosures below the BFE.



TB #11 CRAWLSPACE CONSTRUCTION

www.tinyurl.com/2yr67mzj

Revised 2001



Crawlspace foundations are commonly used to elevate the lowest floors of residential buildings located in floodplain to above the BFE. This TB provides guidance on minimum NFIP requirements as well as best practices for crawlspace construction in the floodplain.



TB #6 BELOW GRADE PARKING REQUIREMENTS

www.tinyurl.com/28cy849q

Revised 2021



Below-grade areas, including use for parking, are not allowed under residential buildings in A Zones. TB #6 provides guidance on NFIP floodplain requirements for the design and certification of dry floodproofed below-grade parking areas.



Where Can I Find It

What Does It Cover

Example

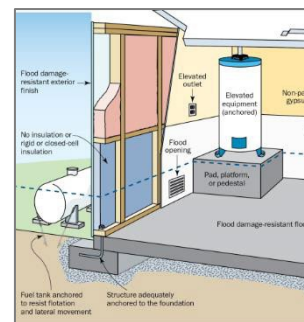
TB #7 WET FLOODPROOFING REQUIREMENTS & LIMITATIONS

www.tinyurl.com/28o32fwg

Revised 2022



Wet floodproofing” is used to mean the use of flood damage-resistant materials & construction to minimize flood damage to structures by allowing water to enter & exit structures automatically. TB #7 provides guidance on the NFIP regulations concerning wet floodproofing of certain types of structures in the floodplain.



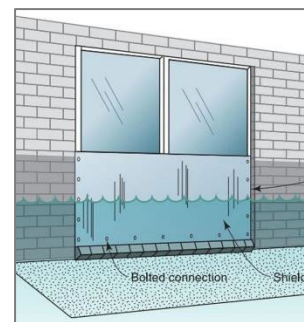
TB #3 DRY FLOODPROOFING REQUIREMENTS & CERTIFICATION

www.tinyurl.com/27z2l54b

Revised 2021



Dry floodproofing means a combination of measures that make a building and attendant utilities & equipment watertight and impermeable to floodwater. This TB provides guidance on the NFIP requirements for the design of dry floodproofing. *NOTE: This method DOES NOT meet residential structure requirements.*



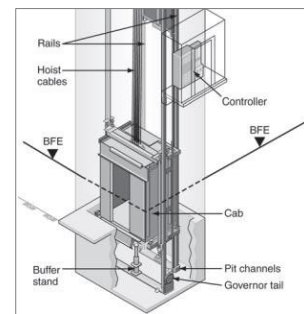
TB #4 ELEVATOR INSTALLATION

www.tinyurl.com/25j7h45b

Revised 2019



Elevators have become more common in construction to provide building access to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. TB #4 provides guidance on the NFIP regulations concerning the installation of elevators below the Base Flood Elevation in the floodplain.



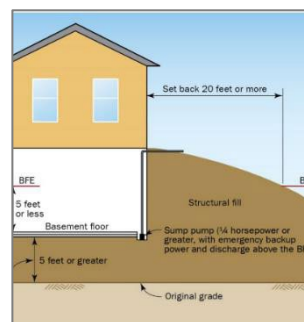
TB #10 REASONABLY SAFE FROM FLOODING ON FILLED LAND

www.tinyurl.com/2296hru9

Revised 2023



How can we determine that the area we want to develop is reasonably safe from flooding? This TB discusses building techniques, including using fill, that can help to ensure structures are reasonably safe from flooding, including updating the flood maps with a Letter of Map Revision based on Fill (LOMR-F).



Resources:

All 11 FEMA Technical Bulletins: tinyurl.com/y5nh62cj

User's Guide to NFIP Technical Bulletins: tinyurl.com/25xp6nmj

National Flood Hazard Layer: <https://msc.fema.gov/nfhl>

Find Your Local Floodplain Manager: [MT DNRC Contacts](#)