



# NJ FIRE CODE UPDATE

## EFFECTIVE APRIL 15, 2025



### REGARDING MULCH AND COMBUSTIBLE LANDSCAPE MATERIALS

The new noncombustible mulch regulations in New Jersey will take effect on April 15, 2025, exactly one year from their approval date of April 15, 2024.

The following rules apply to all buildings; however, it is limited to the scope of the State Fire Prevention Code. As such, the landscaping provisions **do not apply to owner-occupied, one- and two-family or attached single family dwellings used exclusively for dwelling purposes.** All other uses, however, would be covered by the provision.

#### Mulch/Landscaping Requirements in the New Jersey Fire Prevention Subcode

##### **305.6 Landscape Materials.**

The use of combustible landscape materials, such as wood-based mulch products, is prohibited in any of the following conditions:

1. Within 18 inches of any building or structure;
2. Within 18 inches of a deck, porch, balcony, or any other portion of the building constructed of combustible material; or
3. Within 18 inches of any designated smoking area defined in section 310.2

##### ***Exceptions:***

1. *Live plant material such as shrubs, flowers, and trees provided that they are not beneath a combustible overhang with less than 6 feet of clearance.*
2. *Non-combustible building or structure exteriors that have no combustible components or trim with less than 3 feet clearance from grade.*
3. *Fire resistant mulch.*

##### **305.7 Existing materials.**

This provision shall become operative April 15, 2025, all occupancies subject to this code shall remove all combustible landscape materials that are located within 18 inches of the foundation of any building or structure or in the area of any designated smoking area. This product may be replaced with non-combustible materials such as stone or sand.