



Definition of Roof

Technical Bulletin FH 2022-02

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Applicable Standards:

FORTIFIED Home™–Hurricane
FORTIFIED Home™–High Wind

Applicable Designation Level:



FORTIFIED Home™ Definition of “Roof” for FORTIFIED Roof Designations

Introduction

For a FORTIFIED New Roof Designation, it goes without saying that a home’s roof must meet FORTIFIED requirements to qualify. However, sometimes what is not obvious is what areas must be included as part of the roof for the purposes of FORTIFIED. Areas such as upper-level balconies, decks, and widow’s walks are part of the roof system of the home, but sometimes these areas get missed when reroofing. This can result in frustration, delay and ultimately denial of FORTIFIED designations. This technical bulletin is intended to provide clarity on what types of roof areas are required to meet FORTIFIED and which areas are optional, to minimize these instances and provide a clearer path to FORTIFIED designations.

Required and Optional Roof Areas

For a qualifying home to be eligible for the FORTIFIED New Roof Designation, all roof covers on or attached to the building must be replaced when reroofing. Only roof sections outside of exterior foundational walls may be exempt if there is a separation from the main roof cover. Documentation must be submitted confirming separation from main roof cover due to the presence of existing parapet walls, flashing where the roof covering is completely interrupted or terminated (excluding any type of valley), or difference of elevation (excluding hips, ridges and change of slope).

Several of the most common types of roof sections are described and identified as required or optional in Figures 1 and 2 below. If in doubt, contact FORTIFIED staff.

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Figure 1 – Sample House (front)

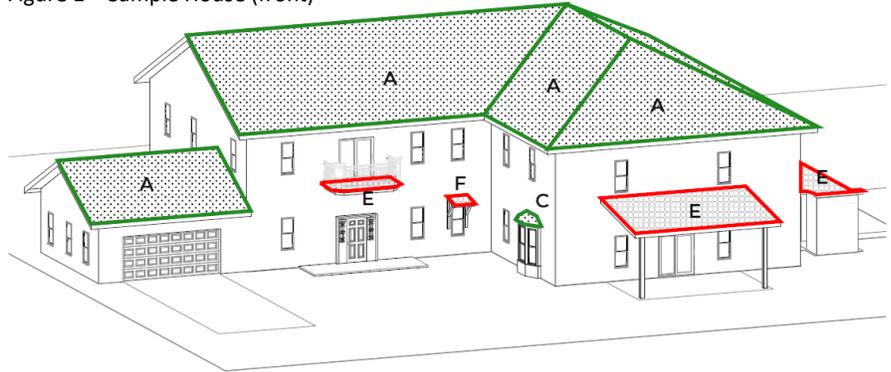
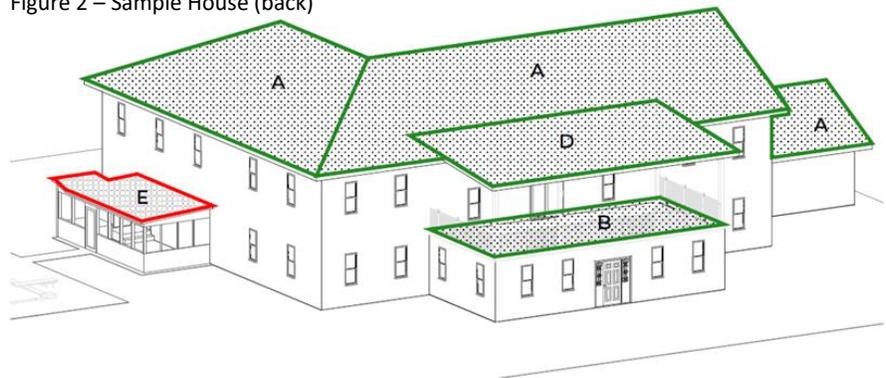


Figure 2 – Sample House (back)



Required - Roof sections within scope of FORTIFIED:

All Documentation is required for FORTIFIED Roof designations

- A. Sloped and/or low-slope roofs over the living space of a home and attached garages.
- B. Upper-level balconies and/or decks over the living space of the home.
 - Exposed walking surfaces must be treated as a low-slope roof section.
 - May include widow’s walk (not shown in Figures)
- C. Bay windows and/or bump-out roof areas over the living space of the home.
- D. Any roof type that ties into the main roof cover (A).



Optional - Roof sections outside scope of FORTIFIED:

Documentation of the separation from the main roof cover is all that is required for FORTIFIED Roof designations

- E. Exterior roofs and/or upper-level balconies that are not over living space of the home or tied into the main roof cover.
 - Exterior roofs that are separate from the main home, or the main roof.
- F. Architectural features that project from the wall of the home (such as eyebrows and awnings).



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Although optional areas are not required to meet FORTIFIED requirements for Roof designation, these areas are still important, and it is recommended practice that all roof areas be built or replaced using consistent materials and installation methods per the FORTIFIED Standard.

Compliance Verification Requirements

For any optional roof sections, provide photo documentation that confirms the roof section does not attach to the main roof. The separation can be from existing parapet walls, flashing where the roof covering is completely interrupted or terminated (excluding any type of valley), or difference of elevation (excluding hips, ridges and change of slope).

For all required roof sections, all FORTIFIED Roof documentation is required to be submitted to IBHS.

Additional References

IBHS created a 1-page (2-sided) handout illustrating the required and optional roof sections,

[Refer to: Handout - FORTIFIED Roof Definition](#)