

**NC Department of Insurance
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division
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**Guidance Paper: Window and Door Installation Requirement for
Framing and Insulation Inspection Temporarily During COVID-19**

Code: 2018 NC Administrative Code and Policies
Section: 107.1.4

Date: 12/14/2020

Question:

During this period of COVID-19 there is a shortage of new windows and doors available from the building supply stores. This shortage appears to be a result of production and distribution issues. Normally windows and doors are in place for framing and insulation inspections as installation of those items protect openings as well as the interior of the building. Is it possible to cover the window and door openings for the framing inspection with materials other than the window or door that will be in place at the final inspection?

Answer:

Yes, during this extraordinary time of COVID-19 the DOI/OSFM recommends allowing the use of weather resistant materials such as sheathing, 6-mil plastic, building wrap, or similar materials as a temporary alternate method for covering window and door openings until the intended window or door is available but before the final inspection. The materials must be installed and maintained such that the interior systems and structure are not subject to moisture from weather.

This will require coordination with the local Inspections Department and involve partial or extra inspections of such items as window and door installation and flashing, where applicable, and insulation around the windows and doors as needed.

This recommendation, however, ends when the shortage of windows and doors related to COVID-19 ends.

The guidance and opinions contained herein are not legal advice and may not necessarily reflect the most current statutory or code language.