



**Township of Maple Shade
Fire Department**

Office of the Fire Marshal

200 Stiles Avenue
Maple Shade, NJ 08052
856-779-9610

**Update to the NJ Uniform Fire Code
Mulch / Combustible Landscape Materials
Effective: April 15, 2025**

Dear Business Owner/Manager,

This is a reminder that on April 15, 2024, the State of New Jersey Division of Fire Safety adopted the 2018 International Fire Code (IFC), New Jersey Edition as part of the Uniform Fire Code. Specific new sections 305.6 and 305.7 of the 2018 IFC NJ Edition, will have a one-year period before they become operative.

This change will affect the use of combustible landscape materials or “mulch” in all applications *except for owner-occupied, one- and two-family or attached single family dwellings used exclusively for dwelling purposes.*

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 if not within 18 inches of the building or structure or 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 12 months after the effective date of these rules, 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 around any designated smoking area. This product may be replaced with non-combustible materials such as stone or sand.



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Effective April 15, 2025 the Maple Shade Office of the Fire Marshal will begin to enforce these regulations on all annual fire inspections. Please make sure to plan with your landscape contractors to address these regulations and make the necessary changes. Thank you for your cooperation.

If you have any questions, please contact our office:

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