



HOLIDAY DÉCOR AND FIRE SAFETY

Egress

- Access to exits and exit paths shall not be obstructed by decorative materials.

Sources of Ignition

- Candles or other sources of open flame are not allowed for any decorations or ceremonies, except as approved by the fire authority prior to the event.
- Sources of ignition shall not be allowed within the vicinity of combustible decorative materials.

Electrical

- Only UL-listed miniature lights shall be used, in accordance with their listing.
- Heavy duty extension cords shall be approved commercially manufactured UL-listed assemblies (14-gauge minimum, 15-amp minimum). Only grounded extension cords shall be used.
- Electrical lights and extension cords that are physically damaged or altered shall not be used unless repairs are in accordance with the Electrical Code.

Decorative Materials

Natural vegetation, including cut Christmas trees

- Fire-retardant coatings are not required on natural trees and will not extend the length of time a tree should be permitted indoors. While freshly cut trees are naturally flame resistant due to their high water content, they become extremely flammable when permitted to dry out. When brought indoors, the heat and lower humidity will accelerate the drying process.
- Decorations made of natural materials shall be removed at any indication of dryness, such as brittleness, loss of color or fallen needles. Christmas trees and other natural holiday decorations shall be removed if the building is unoccupied for more than three days.

Care of Christmas trees shall be as follows:

- Saw off at an angle of at least ½ inch above the original cut.
- Mount securely in a tree stand, pail, tub or other water holder or reservoir.
- Maintain the water level above the cut as long as the tree is indoors and add fresh water daily.

Artificial Decorations

Artificial decorations may have electrical devices used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Exception: Artificial decorations having exposed metal surfaces shall not be decorated with any type of electrical devices, decorations or appliances.

All decorations shall be either inherently fire retardant or treated with a flame retardant to be flame resistant and shall comply with O.F.C. 805 (2004 Edition).

Occupancy Specific Guidelines

Assemblies

- Assembly buildings or rooms shall not exceed the posted occupancy load or as approved by the fire authority.
- Natural cut Christmas trees shall be allowed.
- Listed miniature lights shall be allowed.
- Noncombustible decorative material amounts shall be unlimited.
- Flame-resistant materials shall be limited to 10% of the aggregate area of wall and ceiling areas.

Exception

Group A auditoriums shall be allowed to have flame-resistant decorative material covering up to 50% of the aggregate area of walls and ceilings when equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system.

Contact the local fire authority for temporary membrane structures, tents and canopies, haunted houses, outdoor carnivals, fairs and other places of assembly.

Educational

- Flame-resistant decorations shall not exceed 10% of the aggregate area of walls and ceilings.
- Noncombustible material amounts shall be unlimited.
- Natural cut Christmas trees shall be allowed.
- Listed miniature lights shall be allowed.

Group I-1; I-2; I-3; I-4; R4 and SR Occupancies

Natural cut Christmas trees shall not be permitted.

Exception: Trees located in areas protected by an approved automatic sprinkler system shall not be prohibited.

Exception: Trees shall be permitted within dwelling units in group R-2 occupancies.

Listed miniature lights shall be allowed.

Decoration material shall be flame-resistive in Group I and R4 occupancies.

Exception: In Groups I-1 and I-2, combustible decorations shall be flame retardant.

Exception: In Group I-3, combustible decorations are prohibited.

Listed mini lights shall be allowed.

All Other Occupancies

- Shall not be restricted in use of natural cut Christmas trees.
- Shall be restricted in the use of combustible decorative materials according to OFC Table 806.3 (Attachment A).

Fireworks Displays

A permit is required from both Gresham Fire and Emergency Services and the State Fire Marshal for all fireworks displays.

OREGON FIRE CODE

TABLE 806.3 INTERIOR WALL AND CEILING FINISH REQUIREMENTS BY OCCUPANCY^{k, n}

GROUP	SPRINKLERED ^m			NONSPRINKLERED		
	Vertical exits and exit passageways ^{a, b}	Exit access corridors and other exitways	Rooms and enclosed spaces ^c	Vertical exits and exit passageways ^{a, b}	Exit access corridors and other exitways	Rooms and enclosed spaces ^c
A-II&A-2	B	B	C	A	A ^d	B ^e
A-3 ^f IA-4, A-5	B	B	C	A	A ^d	C
B, E, M, R-I, R-4	B	C	C	A	B	C
F	C	C	C	B	C	C
H	B	B	C ^g	A	A	B
1-1	B	C	C	A	B	B
1-2	B	B	B ^{h, i}	A	A	B
1-3	A	A ^l	C	A	A	B
1-4	B	B	B ^{h, i}	A	A	B
R-2	C	C	C	B	B	C
R-3	C	C	C	C	C	C
S	C	C	C	B	B	C
U	No Restrictions			No Restrictions		

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1 square foot = 0.0929 m².

- a. Class C interior finish materials shall be permitted for wainscoting or paneling of not more than 1,000 square feet of applied surface area in the grade lobby where applied directly to a noncombustible base or over furring strips applied to a noncombustible base and fireblocked as required by Section 803.3 of the *International Building Code*.
- b. In vertical exits of buildings less than three stories in height of other than Group 1-3, Class B interior finish for unsprinklered buildings and Class C for sprinklered buildings shall be permitted.
- c. Requirements for rooms and enclosed spaces shall be based upon spaces enclosed by partitions. Where a fire-resistance rating is required for structural elements, the enclosing partitions shall extend from the floor to the ceiling. Partitions that do not comply with this shall be considered as enclosing spaces and the rooms or spaces on both sides shall be considered as one. In determining the applicable requirements for rooms and enclosed spaces, the specific occupancy thereof shall be the governing factor regardless of the group classification of the building or structure.
- d. Lobby areas in Group A-I, A-2 and A-3 occupancies shall not be less than Class B.
- e. Class C interior finish materials shall be permitted in Group A occupancies with an occupant load of 300 persons or less.
- f. For churches and places of worship, wood used for ornamental purposes, trusses, paneling, or chancel furnishing shall be permitted.
- g. Class B required where building exceeds two stories.
- h. Class C interior finish materials shall be permitted in administrative spaces.
- i. Class C interior finish materials shall be permitted in rooms with a capacity of four persons or less.
- j. Class B materials shall be permitted as wainscoting extending not more than 48 inches above the finished floor in exit access corridors,
- k. Finish materials as provided for in other sections of this code.
 1. Motion picture screens shall comply with Section 803.2.2.
- m. Applies when the vertical exits, exit passageways, exit access corridors or exitways, or rooms and spaces are protected by a sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2.