

SECTION 806 DECORATIVE VEGETATION IN NEW AND EXISTING BUILDINGS

806.1 Natural cut trees.

Natural cut trees, where allowed by this section, shall have the trunk bottoms cut off not less than 0.5 inch (12.7 mm) above the original cut and shall be placed in a support device complying with [Section 806.1.2](#).

806.1.1 Restricted occupancies.

Natural cut trees shall be [prohibited within ambulatory care facilities and Group A, E, I-1, I-2, I-3, I-4, M, R-1, R-2 and R-4 occupancies](#).

Exceptions:

1. Trees located in areas protected by an *approved automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.1](#) or [903.3.1.2](#) shall not be prohibited in Groups A, E, M, R-1 and R-2.
2. Trees shall be allowed within *dwelling units* in Group R-2 occupancies.

806.1.2 Support devices.

The support device that holds the tree in an upright position shall be of a type that is stable and that meets all of the following criteria:

1. The device shall hold the tree securely and be of adequate size to avoid tipping over of the tree.
2. The device shall be capable of containing a minimum two-day supply of water.
3. The water level, when full, shall cover the tree stem not less than 2 inches (51 mm). The water level shall be maintained above the fresh cut and checked not less than once daily.

806.1.3 Dryness.

The tree shall be removed from the building whenever the needles or leaves fall off readily when a tree branch is shaken or if the needles are brittle and break when bent between the thumb and index finger. The tree shall be checked daily for dryness.

806.2 Artificial vegetation.

Artificial decorative vegetation shall meet the flame propagation performance criteria of Test Method 1 or Test Method 2, as appropriate, of [NFPA 701](#). Meeting the flame propagation performance criteria of Test Method 1 or Test Method 2, as appropriate, of [NFPA 701](#) shall be documented and certified by the manufacturer in an *approved* manner. Alternatively, the artificial decorative vegetation item shall be tested in accordance with [NFPA 289](#), using the 20 kW ignition source, and shall have a maximum heat release rate of 100 kW.

806.3 Obstruction of means of egress.

The required width of any portion of a *means of egress* shall not be obstructed by [decorative vegetation](#). [Natural cut trees shall not be located within an exit, corridor, or a lobby or vestibule](#).

806.4 Open flame.

Candles and open flames shall not be used on or near decorative vegetation. Natural cut trees shall be kept a distance from heat vents and any open flame or heat-producing devices at least equal to the height of the tree.

806.5 Electrical fixtures and wiring.

The use of unlisted electrical wiring and lighting on natural cut trees and artificial decorative vegetation shall be prohibited. The use of electrical wiring and lighting on artificial trees constructed entirely of metal shall be prohibited.

Open-flame devices shall not be used in a Group A occupancy.

Exceptions:

1. Open-flame devices are allowed to be used in the following situations, provided *approved* precautions are taken to prevent ignition of a combustible material or injury to occupants:
 - 1.1. Where necessary for ceremonial or religious purposes in accordance with Section 308.1.7.
 - 1.2. On stages and platforms as a necessary part of a performance in accordance with Section 308.3.2.
 - 1.3. Where candles on tables are securely supported on substantial noncombustible bases and the candle flames are protected.
2. Heat-producing equipment complying with Chapter 6 and the *International Mechanical Code*.
3. Gas lights are allowed to be used provided adequate precautions satisfactory to the *fire code official* are taken to prevent ignition of combustible materials.

308.3.1 Open-flame decorative devices.

Open-flame decorative devices shall comply with all of the following restrictions:

1. Class I and Class II liquids and LP-gas shall not be used.
2. Liquid- or solid-fueled lighting devices containing more than 8 ounces (237 ml) of fuel must self-extinguish and not leak fuel at a rate of more than 0.25 teaspoon per minute (1.26 ml per minute) if tipped over.
3. The device or holder shall be constructed to prevent the spillage of liquid fuel or wax at the rate of more than 0.25 teaspoon per minute (1.26 ml per minute) when the device or holder is not in an upright position.
4. The device or holder shall be designed so that it will return to the upright position after being tilted to an angle of 45 degrees (0.79 rad) from vertical.

Exception: Devices that self-extinguish if tipped over and do not spill fuel or wax at the rate of more than 0.25 teaspoon per minute (1.26 ml per minute) if tipped over.

5. The flame shall be enclosed except where openings on the side are not more than 0.375-inch (9.5 mm) diameter or where openings are on the top and the distance to the top is such that a piece of tissue paper placed on the top will not ignite in 10 seconds.
6. Chimneys shall be made of noncombustible materials and securely attached to the open-flame device.

Exception: A chimney is not required to be attached to any open-flame device that will self-extinguish if the device is tipped over.

7. Fuel canisters shall be safely sealed for storage.
8. Storage and handling of *combustible liquids* shall be in accordance with Chapter 57.
9. Shades, where used, shall be made of noncombustible materials and securely attached to the open-flame device holder or chimney.
10. Candelabras with flame-lighted candles shall be securely fastened in place to prevent overturning, and shall be located away from occupants using the area and away from possible contact with drapes, curtains or other combustibles.

308.3.2 Theatrical performances.

Where *approved*, open-flame devices used in conjunction with theatrical performances are allowed to be used when adequate safety precautions have been taken in accordance with NFPA 160.

308.4 Group R occupancies.

Open flame, fire and burning in Group R occupancies shall comply with the requirements of Sections 308.1 through 308.1.6.3 and Section 308.4.1.

308.4.1 Group R-2 dormitories.

Candles, incense and similar open-flame-producing items shall not be allowed in sleeping units in Group R-2 dormitory occupancies.