

Windstorm Mitigation Feature Definitions

Feature	Description
Terrain	Per the Florida Building Code, there are different terrain designations that apply depending on where a structure is located. Broward and Dade Counties comprise the High Velocity Hurricane Zone (HVHZ). Coastal areas outside of Broward and Dade are considered terrain "C", while inland areas are designated as terrain "B".
Wind Speed Location of Structure	The map on page 2 depicts the Florida Building Code Wind Speed Zone for various areas of the state.
Wind Speed Design of Structure	Per the 2001 Florida Building Code, structures must be built to withstand winds equal to the Wind Speed Zone for the location of the structure. However, it is possible for structures to be built to an even higher wind speed than the zone in which the structure lies.
Wind Borne Debris Region (WBDR)	The map on page 2 shows the locations designated as the Wind Borne Debris Region, per the Florida Building Code.
Roof Shape	Hip roofs, which have sloping ends and sloping sides down to the roof eaves line, provide greater stability during high winds. Bracing on the gable ends of non-hip roofs provides more protection than unbraced gable roofs.
Roof Covering	Roof coverings (generally shingles) that are certified to meet Florida Building Code 2001 or 1994 South Florida Building Code Standards provide more protection than coverings not certified to those standards.
Secondary Water Resistance (SWR)	Secondary Water Resistance serves to prevent the entry of water following a roof covering failure. Common forms of SWR include self-adhering modified bitumen tape and self-adhering polyurethane structural foam adhesive.
Roof to Wall Connection	This feature measures the strength of the connection used to attach roof rafters to wall studs. Hurricane straps, wraps, and clips provide greater resistance than connections secured with nails only.
Roof Deck Attachment	This feature measures the strength of the connection used to attach roof sheathing to the roof rafters. Roof deck attachment varies depending on the size of nails used, the spacing between nails, and the roof deck material.
Opening Protection Impact Resistance	Opening protection refers to devices used to protect the windows, doors, and skylights of a structure. Storm shutters are the predominant form of opening protection.
Opening Protection Level	This feature contemplates whether a structure has all openings (including garage doors) protected, or only windows protected.
Wall to Foundation Restraint	Structures with walls connected to the foundation provide greater support than those that rely solely on gravity and friction.
Wall Construction	Structures composed of Masonry or Reinforced Masonry walls perform better in high winds than structures built from Frame materials.
Additional detail regarding many of these items can be in the Florida Building Code itself. This document is available online at http://www.sbcci.org/floridacodes.htm .	

Wind Speed Location and WBDR Map

