

**Chester  
Building Official  
Code Enforcement**

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Guide to Sun Rooms/Screened Porches & NH Energy Code

Screened decks/porches must meet all fall protection requirements similar to open decks; in that all perimeter areas located more than 30 inches above grade must have guards. Construction practices must consider proper roof loads consistent with the minimum 65 psf ground snow load design requirements.

Sunrooms are defined as those one-story attachments with an excessive of glazing areas (glass). Sunrooms create unique spaces with large amounts of glazing. Glazing is generally in excess of 40% of the wall space. For this definition the sunroom is assumed to be thermally isolated from the main dwelling. Most sunrooms are unconditioned spaces and would not have any type of heating or cooling; however conditioning could be present and/or exist simply by openings from the adjacent conditioned space. Any heating or cooling application in the sunroom must be separately zoned. Windows and doors separating the sunroom from the dwelling space shall meet the building thermal envelope requirements. For this definition the sunroom is assumed to be thermally isolated from the main dwelling.

When the sunroom is constructed as a thermally isolated sunroom – as most are; while the walls and ceiling must still be insulated, reduced values are allowed. The minimum wall R-value allowed is R-13, and the minimum R-value for the ceiling is R-24. It is, however better advised to apply the same R-value requirements consistent with that of the dwelling unit itself. By applying the standard R-20 wall and R-38 ceiling values the dwelling is serviced consistently throughout.