

Chester
Building Official
Code Enforcement

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Guide to Sunrooms/Screened Porches & NH Energy Code

Screened decks/porches must meet all fall protection requirements the same as open decks in that all perimeter areas located more than 30 inches above grade (measured 36", horizontally, from the deck) 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 excess of glazing areas (glass). Sunrooms create unique spaces with large amounts of glazing. Glazing is generally more than 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.

When the sunroom is constructed as a thermally isolated room, the walls and ceiling must be insulated. The minimum wall insulation is R-13, and the minimum for the ceiling is R-24. However best practice is to apply the same R-values consistent with the rest of the dwelling unit. By applying the standard R-20 wall and R-38 ceiling values the dwelling is served consistently throughout.