



Clark County Building Department

4701 West Russell Road, Las Vegas, NV 89118 ~ (702) 455-3000

BPG-201 Unique Interiors Building Permit Guide

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Part I. General Information

This guide is intended to help design professionals understand the fire protection concepts for unique building interiors, such as wall hangings/coverings, awnings/ceilings, and other decorative interior features/structures. This guide primarily addresses decorative materials that exceed the intent of the Fire Code; must be considered building materials and meet the requirements of the Building Code. Decorative features that are clearly governed by the Building or Fire Codes are not addressed herein and must be discussed with the respective department.

Part II. Applicant's Responsibility

The Design Professional is expected to thoroughly review this guide and provide all information necessary to demonstrate compliance.

Part III. Applicable Codes

The currently adopted version:

- (IBC) International Building Code as amended.
- (IFC) International Fire Code as amended.

Part IV. Jurisdiction

Clark County Building Department (CCBD)

- Regulates components that are part of a building in accordance with the IBC.
- Regulates interior wall and ceiling finishes along with the associated surface-burning characteristics.
- Regulates partitions, pony walls, counters, bars, flooring, draperies, decorative materials and trim.
- Regulates plastics and foam plastics intended for use in building components (i.e. partitions, glazing, insulation, decorative moldings/trim, floors/ceilings).
- Reviews structural and fire-resistive aspects of construction

Contact the **Clark County Fire Department (CCFD)** at 4701 Russell Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89118 (702) 455-7311 for their position and enforcement procedures on decorative materials not regulated by the Clark County Building Department, which may include:

- Combustible materials within structures as addressed in the International Fire Code (IFC) and not included in the IBC. (IE: see IFC Chapter 8).
- Furnishings.
- Objects/Materials/Props on the stage side of a proscenium.
- The design of sprinkler systems to help limit fire propagation within the space.

Part V. Review and Approval Steps

General Information

- If anyone at any time can pick up the decorative item and carry it inside the building, it's likely Clark County will consider the item decorative materials as regulated by the Fire Code. If the decorative feature takes a crew of people to haul it inside the building and assemble it, the CCBD will typically require the decorative feature to be constructed out of the same materials required for the base building.
- CCCBD allows multiple items to be considered decorative materials in accordance with the IFC when the fuel array does not exceed the dimensions indicated herein and adjacent fuel arrays are separated by at least the maximum dimension of the fuel array. This separation is applicable to all decorative wall, ceiling and interior features.
- CCBD will consider decorative materials in excess of the limits listed herein upon a documented engineering analysis addressing the potential hazard and mitigating measures. Both the CCBD and CCFD will review these submittals on a case-by-case basis.

Clark County Building Department (CCBD)

- Structural and fire protection aspects of decorative items exceeding the limitations listed in this guide shall be prepared and/or reviewed by a Nevada registered design professional in accordance with State laws.
- Drawings documenting pertinent aspects of the proposed installations shall be submitted with a digital stamp and digital signature to the Plans Examination Division for review and approval prior to installation. This may be a deferred submittal, and must be noted as such on the Architectural Cover Sheet
- In most cases, a Fire Protection Report (FPR) addressing the extent of work and pertinent aspects will be required to accompany the drawing submittal.
- Although some of the unique applications that fall within the intent of these guidelines are exempt from permits, Section 22.02.185 of the Clark County Building Administrative Code clarifies that those items are not exempt from compliance.

Clark County Fire Department (CCFD)

- Coordinate directly with CCFD for their position and enforcement procedures on decorative materials less than the limitations listed herein.

Part VI. Consideration of Potential Fire Hazard (Design Criteria)

The following conditions are to be included in engineered analyses (FPRs) and may be used to distinguish decorative materials/fuel loading within the building from decorative features that are part of the building:

- Proximity to fire sprinklers
 - Obstruction to sprinkler discharge
 - Sprinkler system design aspects (density and area of coverage)
 - Combustible concealed voids
 - Burning characteristics of the decorative item (size, thickness, mass to surface area ratio and product type)
 - Type of substrate and method of attachment
 - Configuration of the decorative item (e.g. horizontal vs. vertical)
 - Properties of topical applications (pigments, varnishes)
 - Fire-retardant applications
 - Recognized fire tests
 - Proximity to, and significance of, ignition sources and adjacent fuel packages
 - Obstruction to occupant evacuation and exit signs
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- Temporary (not exceeding 3 to 5 days) vs. permanent

Part VII. Trim

Trim is addressed in IBC Section 806.6 and includes:

- Picture molds
- Chair rails
- Baseboards
- Handrails
- Door and window frames (when opening protection is not required)
- Crown molding

Foam plastics may be used as trim within certain restrictions per IBC Section 2604.

When exceeding six (6) inches maximum width, materials will be reviewed in accordance with IBC Chapter 8 as **interior wall and ceiling applications**.

When exceeding ten (10) percent of the specific wall or ceiling to which it is attached, materials will be **considered interior wall and ceiling finish**.

Combustible concealed voids are regulated by both Building and Fire Codes. Several recognized approaches for mitigating combustible voids include:

- Installing automatic sprinklers in the void
- Filling the void with a noncombustible material
- Encapsulating the combustible surface inside the void with a noncombustible material
- Fire blocking small voids with a recognized material at intervals not exceeding 8 feet

Part VIII. Decorative Wall Applications

Decorative wall applications include the following items and may be affixed or suspended:

- Tapestries
- Murals
- Pictures
- Signs
- Draperies
- Decorative planters
- Projection screens
- Big screen televisions

Textiles/Thin Combustible Materials

- Draperies limited to 10 percent of the associated wall are considered decorative hangings and governed by IBC Section 806.
 - Draperies are not allowed to be used as room dividers. Room dividers are partitions and must be of the type of construction required for the building in which they are installed. Draperies hung from the ceiling to create separations may constitute up to 10 percent of the projected wall line. (Except as specifically allowed by IBC Section 806 for fabric partitions in Group B and M occupancies.)
 - CCFD may consider free hanging fabrics and textiles, as well as other thin combustible materials under the IFC if they do not exceed 10 feet by 10 feet.
 - CCFD may consider temporary draperies exceeding 10 feet by 10 feet when adequate protection is provided and may require testing in accordance with NFPA 701 Test Method 2, NFPA 265 or NFPA 286, as applicable.
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- Other than draperies described in the preceding bullets, thin combustible materials used as interior finish must be adhered to a noncombustible substrate with a high temperature, noncombustible adhesive and comply with IBC Section 803.
 - Thermally thin wall/ceiling finishes shall be in accordance with their respective subsection of IBC Chapter 8. Those finishes not expressly listed shall require an engineering analysis.

Light-Transmitting Plastics and Plastic Signs

- Plastic signs in malls are limited as specified in IBC Section 402.6.4.
- Other than in malls, fire-resistive aspects of plastic signs shall be in accordance with IBC Section 2611.
- Light-transmitting plastics must be submitted to the CCBD for review in accordance with IBC Chapter 26.

LED displays are regulated by IBC 2611. Displays not mentioned here require an engineering analysis.

- Other decorative wall applications exceeding 10 feet by 10 feet must comply with the IBC.
- Architectural / decorative features that limit or restrict occupant access / circulation are considered interior partitions when they exceed 5 feet - 9 inches high or 10 feet in length.

Part IX. Decorative Ceilings

Decorative ceilings inside buildings include:

- Umbrellas
- Awnings (includes fixed and operational)
- Canopies (includes fixed and operational)
- Interior eaves/projections
- Non-occupiable/decorative balconies
- Lattice and other similar ceilings
- Roofs of interior structures (e.g. kiosks and carousels)
- Horizontal installation/application of any material that can cause obstruction to, or delay activation of, automatic sprinklers

Decorative ceilings exceeding 10 feet by 10 feet must comply with the IBC.

Automatic sprinklers must be installed to eliminate/reduce concealed fires in accordance with NFPA 13.

Unprotected, noncombustible construction is acceptable for partitions and/or columns that only support ceilings and do not qualify as structural frame or bearing walls.

CCBD considers columns supporting ceilings or other decorative features to be “structural frame” and requires protection from fire when the associated column line is analyzed as a wall and that wall would qualify as bearing (supports more than 100 lbs per lineal foot of superimposed load).

Thermally thin combustible ceilings (typically any combustible material less than ¼ inch thick) not explicitly addressed by the IBC do not comply with the codes adopted by Clark County and must be submitted through the Alternate Materials/Methods provisions of the IBC for consideration.

- Even when exceeding ¼ inch thick, plastics and fabrics used in ceiling applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

The Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC) limits the flame spread index to 25 and smoke developed index to 50 for above ceiling areas that constitute plenums.

Part X. Artificial Plants, Statues & Similar Decorative Features

Artificial plants, statues and similar decorative items placed within buildings include:

- Artificial/preserved plants
- Mannequins
- Statues
- Models
- Small non-occupiable decorative structures

Combustible concealed voids shall be mitigated.

Decorative items exceeding ten feet in height and/or four feet in diameter shall be constructed out of the same materials required for the base building. Substantiation that the feature meets the structural stability aspects of the IBC may be required by the CCBD.

Contact CCFD for their position and enforcement procedures on decorative items less than the dimensions described in the preceding bullet.

Part XI. Bars, Counters & Restaurant Booths

Bars, counters and restaurant booths constructed in place or affixed to the building are:

- Not exempt from the codes enforced by the CCBD.
- Not exempt from permits.

Combustible concealed voids shall be mitigated.

Obstruction to sprinkler discharge shall be mitigated.

These features exceeding 5 feet - 9 inches high, 4 feet deep or 10 feet in length shall be constructed out of the same materials required for the base building. Substantiation that the feature meets the structural stability aspects of the IBC may be required by the CCBD.

Contact CCFD for their position and enforcement procedures on such features less than the dimensions described in the preceding bullet. Materials used for seats and backrests of restaurant booths are also in accordance with CCFD requirements.

Part XII. Decorative Structures within Buildings

Decorative structures:

- Structures inside buildings that may or may not be standalone features.
- Are governed by the IBC.
- May or may not be occupiable.
- Are more highly regulated than the features described in the preceding portions of this guide.

Combustible concealed voids shall be mitigated.

Both the CCBD and CCFD may review specific aspects (e.g. an artificial tree; the CCBD will review structural integrity and the trunk as a partition with interior finish. CCFD will review the foliage in accordance with the IFC).

Interior structures will be reviewed by the CCBD for structural stability and shall be constructed of appropriate materials and meet the fire-resistive requirements specified for the base building. Columns

(and other members qualifying as structural frame), walls (bearing and non-bearing), partitions (fixed or operable), mezzanines and occupiable floors/balconies shall be of the type of materials and protected as required for the type of construction of the base building.

Building Department Locations & Services

MAIN OFFICE 4701 W Russell Road Las Vegas, NV 89118 (702)455-3000	In Lobby Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assistance with electronic permitting - In-person communications & meetings - Records research
LAUGHLIN OFFICE Regional Government Center 101 Civic Way Laughlin, NV 89029 (702)298-2436	Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building Inspection Services - Fire Prevention Inspection Services

Other Clark County Departments/Divisions/Districts

Fire Prevention	4701 W Russell Road, Las Vegas, NV 89118	(702) 455-7100
Public Response Office	4701 W Russell Road, Las Vegas, NV 89118	(702) 455-4191
Animal Control	4701 W Russell Road, Las Vegas, NV 89118	(702) 455-7710
Environment & Sustainability	4701 W Russell Road, Las Vegas, NV 89118	(702) 455-5942
Public Works, Development Review	500 S Grand Central Pkwy, Las Vegas, NV 89155	(702) 455-4600
Comprehensive Planning	500 S Grand Central Pkwy, Las Vegas, NV 89155	(702) 455-4314
Las Vegas Valley Water District	1001 S Valley View Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89153	(702) 870-2011
Southern Nevada Health District	280 S Decatur Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89107	(702) 759-1000
Water Reclamation District	5857 E Flamingo Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89122	(702) 668-8888

State of Nevada

Division of Water Resources	400 Shadow Lane, Suite 201, Las Vegas, NV 89106	(702) 486-2770
Nevada State Contractors Board	8400 W Sunset Rd, Suite 150, Las Vegas, NV 89113	(702) 486-1100

Utilities

Nevada Energy	6226 W Sahara Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89146	(702) 402-5555
Southwest Gas	8360 S Durango Dr, Las Vegas, NV 89113	(877) 860-6020

<http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/building>