

**NC Department of Insurance
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division
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Porch Column Attachment

Code: 2018 Residential Code

Date: April 25, 2018

Section: R407.3

Question:

Does the Residential Code require that posts, such as on a front porch or screened porch, be anchored?

Answer:

Section R407.3 states in part "columns shall be restrained to prevent lateral displacement at the top and bottom ends". The International Residential Code Commentary gives some very general illustrations and indicates the bottom of the column to be "toenailed into a treated wood plate".

In addition, where uplift resistance is required by Sections R802.11.1 or R4508, a continuous load path must be provided to transmit the uplift force to the foundation. There are a number of off-the-shelf post bases or anchorage devices available for this purpose.