



Risk Reduction

A division of the
Manhattan Fire Department

Scott French, Fire Chief

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Inspection Update: Exterior Ceiling Inspections

When the framing inspection for a new home is scheduled, our inspectors commonly find that the exterior finish material has already been installed on beams, columns, soffits, and ceilings of covered decks and porches. With the ever-expanding size of these structures, it is becoming increasingly more important that the framing is inspected to confirm structural integrity and code compliance. To that end, a new category of framing inspection, referred to as “Exterior Ceiling Inspection”, has been created.

This inspection can be scheduled before the overall framing inspection for the home, perhaps at the same time as the [Braced Wall Panel](#) inspection, and is to be conducted before any siding or soffit material encloses the structural components of a porch or deck roof including rafters, ceiling joists, beam, or column components.

The purpose of the inspection is to evaluate the following:

- Proper column to foundation connection *mechanical fastener required*
- Proper column to beam connection *mechanical fastener required*
- Rafter to beam or wall connections *mechanical fastener or approved rafter screws required*
- Any required truss bracing

When calling Risk Reduction to schedule this inspection, please be sure to have your permit number ready, and clarify to our office staff that you are requesting an inspection of the exterior ceiling only, and you are not scheduling a framing inspection for the entire home.



NOTE: additional details on required mechanical fasteners mentioned above can be found on the [Inspection Update: Porch Roof Load Path Requirements](#). --- Updated 5/12/20