

Delaware River Basin Comprehensive Study – Interim Feasibility Study for New Jersey
Flood Risk Management Measures

Fact Sheet

Nonstructural Measures

(Land Use and Regulatory Measures-Construction)

Option: Construction Standards

- Description:** Locally adopted, enforceable codes regulating the use of building materials and design standards to minimize damage from wind, storm, and flooding events.
- Example(s):** Codes requiring roof anchoring; reinforced footings, piers and foundation; provision of adequate drainage.
- Benefits:** Reduces storm and flood damage to buildings (i.e., buildings are more resistant to storm impacts); can be implemented as part of building or zoning code regulations; increases compliance with FEMA regulations; consistent with state and local building codes; improves building design and quality; reduces insurance claims; results in a uniform building code for hazardous areas; does not limit the use of the property or preclude the construction of structures in the waterfront areas; may increase property values.
- Challenges:** Mainly applicable to new construction, substantial improvement, or retrofit of existing structures; increases the cost of home construction and improvements; provides limited risk management (i.e., does not address overall flooding problem); difficult to formulate consistent construction practices, difficult to enforce; need to educate contractors, architects and homeowners as to the benefits; encourages construction in areas where development should not occur (i.e., may give homeowner a false sense of security); tight construction deadlines make it difficult for contractors to employ construction standard measures; may be less effective on smaller lots because of access restrictions for required construction equipment.

