

PORCH WINDOWS DIRECT

Xtend Porch Window Code Classification Guide

National guidance for permits inspections and project planning

Main conclusion Xtend units are designed as removable flexible vinyl panels for screened porches and other non-habitable unconditioned enclosures. They should not be represented as conventional exterior windows that complete the conditioned building envelope. The adopted code and local building official determine the final classification for each project.

Why the product classification matters

A clear panel is not automatically a conventional window. The code question is what the product is doing within the completed building. Xtend protects porch openings while allowing the porch to remain a separate accessory space. It is not intended to replace the dwelling's required exterior wall windows or doors.

Project question	Conventional exterior window	Xtend porch enclosure use
Space	Habitable or conditioned interior space	Non-habitable unconditioned porch or three-season room
Building envelope	Primary separation between indoors and outdoors	Installed outside the dwelling's existing exterior wall windows and doors
Glazing	Rigid glazing evaluated for the applicable window requirements	Removable 10 mil flexible clear vinyl panels with a full exterior screen
Storm function	May be required to meet project design pressure and debris protection	Not marketed or relied upon as hurricane impact or wind-borne-debris protection

Model code basis

The International Residential Code uses AAMA NPEA NSA 2100 classifications for sunrooms. The exact IRC edition and amendments vary by state and local jurisdiction, so the section number and wording must be checked against the adopted code for the project.

Category I alignment

- Category I describes a thermally isolated non-habitable unconditioned space.
- Openings may be enclosed with insect screening or plastic film not exceeding 20 mil or 0.5 mm in thickness.
- Xtend uses 10 mil or approximately 0.25 mm flexible clear vinyl and includes a full exterior insect screen.
- The dwelling's original exterior wall windows and doors should remain in place so the porch stays separated from conditioned living space.

When the classification may change

- Permanent heating or cooling is added to the porch.
- The wall windows or doors separating the porch from the dwelling are removed.
- The project is described or used as habitable living space.
- The enclosure is expected to satisfy forced-entry air-leakage water-penetration thermal or primary building-envelope requirements.

Do not overstate the conclusion Xtend's 10 mil vinyl and screened configuration are consistent with the Category I material description. That does not create automatic approval in every jurisdiction and does not replace project-specific review of the structure attachments egress guards energy provisions or local amendments.

How to describe Xtend on a permit

Suggested description Install removable flexible vinyl glazed porch enclosure panels within screened porch openings. The porch will remain non-habitable and unconditioned. The existing exterior wall windows and doors separating the dwelling from the porch will remain in place. The panels are not proposed as hurricane impact or wind-borne-debris protection and are not part of a required guard system. Installation will follow the locally approved plans and applicable adopted code.

Fall protection and guards

Xtend operable windows are not guards. Flexible vinyl glazing cannot be relied upon to prevent a fall where a guard is required. The project must provide a separate guard solution that satisfies the locally adopted height opening limitation and structural load requirements.

Fixed tempered glass option

Porch Windows Direct can supply a fixed panel with one-quarter-inch tempered glass for use in the lower portion of an opening. The glass panel can be part of a guard solution, but code compliance depends on the complete installed assembly including the glass size frame intermediate support anchors substrate height opening geometry and required structural performance. Framing and engineering are by others.

Project review required The authority having jurisdiction or project design professional should confirm whether the proposed fixed panel assembly is accepted as a guard. Do not describe the fixed panel by itself as a code-compliant guard.

Scope of supply and installation

- Porch Windows Direct supplies the window units appropriate mounting screws and sealant.
- The installer must identify whether the mounting substrate requires screws for wood or self-tapping screws for metal.
- All supporting framing structural engineering trim flashing and finish work are by others.
- Windows require at least one inch of flat solid mounting surface around all four sides of the opening.
- Fasten through the integrated predrilled mounting flange using the supplied fasteners.
- Seal the top and side flanges with the supplied sealant. If trim covers the flange use appropriate flashing tape behind the trim when needed for the planned water-management detail.

Other code questions that remain separate

Issue	Project responsibility
Structural wind design	Confirm the host structure rough openings attachments fasteners and design pressures required at the site.
Wind-borne debris	Provide approved opening protection separately when required. Xtend is not an impact-protection product.
Egress	Do not obstruct required emergency escape rescue openings or required exits.
Pool barriers	Verify barrier height gates latches and openings when the porch is part of a required pool barrier.

Issue	Project responsibility
Energy and conditioning	Reevaluate the room classification before adding permanent conditioning or opening the porch to the dwelling.

Jurisdiction review checklist

Review item	What to confirm
Adopted code and amendments	Confirm the IRC IBC or state residential code edition adopted for the project.
Room classification	Confirm screen enclosure sunroom category porch enclosure or another local classification.
Separation from dwelling	Keep the existing exterior wall windows and doors unless the project is redesigned for conditioned space.
Local product documentation	Ask whether the official requires test reports engineering product evaluation or installation drawings. PWD will not supply these if required.
Coastal or high-wind rules	Review design pressure debris protection and special state or local product-approval programs.
Panel removal or labeling	Follow any jurisdiction-specific removal instructions warning labels or storm preparation requirements.
Guards and fall protection	Provide and document an independent approved guard solution wherever required. PWD will not provide any documentation or information beyond what is listed in this document
Permit documents	Show opening sizes framing attachment substrate fasteners sealant and any fixed lower panels on the plans.

Recommended customer answer

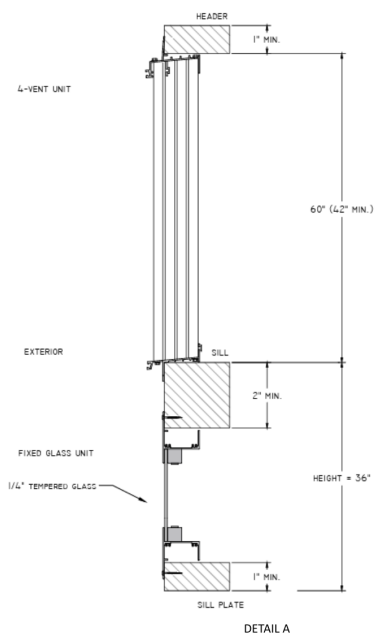
Xtend is designed for screened porches and other non-habitable unconditioned enclosures. The units use removable 10 mil flexible vinyl and a full exterior screen which aligns with the model-code description for a Category I sunroom application. Because every state and municipality adopts and amends codes differently the local building department makes the final determination for the project.

Limits of this guide

This document supports product classification and permit planning. It is not a project-specific engineering evaluation legal opinion permit approval or representation that one classification is accepted in every jurisdiction. Site conditions building use adopted codes and local amendments control.

Typical fixed lower panel configuration

The drawing below illustrates one typical arrangement with an operable Xtend unit above a fixed tempered-glass lower panel. It is a concept detail only. A design professional or building official must approve the complete guard assembly and structural attachments for the project.



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Concept detail reproduced from Xtend Code Compliance Information

References

AAMA NPEA NSA 2100 Voluntary Specifications for Sunrooms

International Residential Code Sunroom wind and classification provisions and guard requirements as adopted and amended locally

Project source document Xtend Code Compliance Information prepared by Porch Windows Direct

[Porch Windows Direct service and product information](http://PorchWindowsDirect.com)