



## Product Substitution Due to Supply Chain Issues and Product Availability

### Introduction

At each designation level, the FORTIFIED Home™ Standard stipulates material and testing requirements for specific components of a home, including:

- Roof and wall sheathing
- Ring-shank nails
- Sealed roof deck materials such as underlayment and tape
- Closed-cell spray foam
- Roof coverings such as asphalt shingles, metal panels, tile, wood shakes, and low-slope covers
- Roof vents
- Drip edge
- Entry doors
- Windows and skylights
- Garage door
- Protective opening covers

Material and testing requirements for all FORTIFIED components are specified in the [2020 FORTIFIED Home Standard](#). This technical bulletin provides guidance on product/material substitutions due to supply chain and product availability issues for components used on projects seeking a FORTIFIED Home designation.

### Requirements for Product Substitutions

Due to supply chain issues impacting the United States, it may be difficult to obtain certain products/materials, which can affect the ability to obtain components meeting FORTIFIED requirements.

**If a product/material substitution is necessary, the designer, builder or contractor should seek a product that meets the material/testing criteria stated in the FORTIFIED standard. If one is not available, it is critical that communication with IBHS is initiated as soon as possible. This will allow IBHS to work with the designer, builder, or contractor to assess alternative available products for compliance, well in advance of procurement of materials.**

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### First Release:

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### Prepared by:

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### Applicable Standards:

FORTIFIED Home™–Hurricane  
FORTIFIED Home™–High Wind

### Applicable Designation Level:





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For substitute products or systems that do not meet material and/or testing requirements specified in the FORTIFIED standard, IBHS will determine, at its sole discretion, alternate acceptance criteria and assess substitute products to determine if they meet FORTIFIED performance criteria.

Substitutions must be approved by IBHS and must be installed in a manner that meets the minimum requirements outlined in the FORTIFIED standard, following the manufacturer’s installation instructions. When new or substitute materials/products are selected that may impact a FORTIFIED designation, it is the responsibility of the designer, builder, or contractor to provide the FORTIFIED team/FORTIFIED evaluator with proper documentation in advance.

**Failure to obtain written approval from IBHS for material/product substitutions that do not meet the criteria stated in the standard may result in costly and avoidable expenses and may also result in a project not achieving the FORTIFIED designation level being sought.**

## Guidance for Delivery Delay of Garage Doors

Supply chain issues have particularly impacted the availability of garage doors meeting the FORTIFIED standard. In some instances, the delivery of the garage door is delayed until well after completion of the rest of the home. If desired, interim measures can be taken to allow a FORTIFIED designation to be issued before the garage door is installed.

In these situations, the design team must show IBHS, in advance, how the garage opening will temporarily meet the FORTIFIED requirements for debris impact protection and wind pressure ratings. For example, the engineer of record (EOR) may propose a solution to close the garage opening by designing and installing a temporary infill wall. If the wall meets all FORTIFIED requirements, IBHS can issue the designation certificate. Later, when the garage door is delivered and installed, the evaluator will collect and submit all necessary documentation of garage door



installation to IBHS, who will review it for compliance to verify the designation may be maintained.

For all temporary solutions, please note the following:

- To make the process as smooth as possible, the documentation requirements for the garage door and its installation should be clearly communicated between the homeowner, the contractor, the evaluator, and IBHS.
- Any interim solutions, such as an infill wall while waiting for garage door delivery, must be approved by the authority having jurisdiction and comply with requirements for issuance of a certificate of occupancy.

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## Compliance Verification Requirements

All products must be documented per the [FORTIFIED Home Documentation Requirements](#). For any materials that do not meet material and/or testing requirements specified in the FORTIFIED standard, documentation should be submitted to IBHS for review and approval in advance.

## Additional References

For additional guidance, refer to the following:

- [2020 FORTIFIED Home Standard](#)
- [FORTIFIED Home Documentation Requirements](#)