



**Marion County Public Works  
Building Inspection Division**

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**Building Inspection Policy  
& Procedure  
No. 106**

P&P 106

Adopted: January 27, 2004  
Last Reviewed: April 12, 2018

**CARPORT, PATIO AND PORCH COVER BRACING – ALTERNATE METHOD**

**Background:**

The construction of wood-framed carports, patio and porch covers presents a number of difficulties. These structures are generally small and do not have braced wall lines due to their construction methods. Wind loads on these structures are generally fairly small. In order to be consistent with other jurisdictions in our area Marion County will accept an alternate method of construction that is equivalent to the prescriptive code requirements.

**Policy:**

Marion County will accept as an alternate method of construction for lateral bracing the following methods for wood-framed carports not more than 20 feet in length or width and not more than 10 feet in height:

1. The posts are embedded into a minimum 24” diameter by 36” deep footing at all four corners; or,
2. One side of the carport is attached to a “stick built” structure giving it lateral support and the other two corner posts are embedded into a minimum 24” diameter by 36” deep footing; or,
3. All posts are secured to 24”x24”x 20” min footings with hold-downs rated at a minimum of 1000 pounds uplift capacity to prevent uplift and lateral displacement. The hold-downs are installed into concrete per the manufactured installation instructions and/or the ICBO or ICC evaluation report. Minimum 4” x 4” knee braces, 30” or longer, are installed at approximately a 45 degree angle from vertical and secured with minimum 7/16” diameter bolt with a washer and a nut installed through a predrilled hole through each post and beam. If lag bolts are used they must penetrate a minimum of 3” into the post or beam. Pre-drilled holes must be appropriate for the fasteners used.