

Multi-Family Residential Design Guidelines

The following design guidelines apply to all new multi-family developments.

- Pedestrian walkways and sidewalks shall be a minimum of six-feet (6') wide.
- All pedestrian walkways shall be designed to provide direct access and connections to and between the following:
 - The primary entrance or entrances to each principal multi-family building;
 - To any sidewalks or walkways on adjacent properties that extend to the boundaries shared with the multi-family development;
 - Any adjacent commercial land uses, including but not limited to retail shopping centers, office buildings, restaurants, or personal service establishments; and
 - Any adjacent public park, greenway, or other public/semi-public use including but not limited to schools, libraries, churches, parks, etc.
- To the maximum extent feasible, garage entries, carports, parking areas, and parking structures shall be internalized in building groupings or oriented away from the arterial or collector street frontage.
- Provide distinctive, quality, consistent, architectural character and style in new multi-family development that avoids monotonous and featureless building massing and design.
- The maximum length of a multi-family residential building shall be 200 feet.
- No more than six (6) townhome units shall be attached in any single row.
- There should be a consistency in architectural style among multiple buildings within a development and surrounding area. Each building should have a definitive and consistent style. Mixing of various architectural styles on the same building or buildings dilutes the character of the area.
- All sides of a multi-family building shall display a similar level of quality and architectural interest. The majority of a building's architectural features and treatments shall not be restricted to a single façade.
- All building entries adjacent to an arterial, collector or local street or private drive with on-street parking shall be pedestrian-scaled. Pedestrian-scaled entries are those that provide an expression of human activity or use in relation to building size. Doors, windows, entrance-ways, and other features such as corners, setbacks, and offsets can be used to create pedestrian scale.
- Fronts of buildings should be articulated through the use of bays, insets, balconies, porches, or stoops related to entrances and windows.
- All multi-family building elevations shall contain windows, except when necessary to assure privacy for adjacent property owners. Windows should be located to maximize the possibility of occupant surveillance of entry-ways, recreation areas, and laundry areas.





- On buildings where sloping roofs are the predominant roof type, each building shall have a variety of roof forms. For instance, a gable or hip configuration should be used with complimentary sheds, dormers, and other minor elements. Other roof forms will be considered on a case-by-case basis. On buildings where flat roofs are the predominant roof type, parapet walls shall vary in height and/or shape at least one every fifty-feet (50') of building wall length.
- Unity of design will be maintained through the use of similar materials and colors throughout all multi-family developments.
- High-quality building materials will be used that are durable, attractive, and have low maintenance requirements.
- For all multi-family buildings including duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes and townhomes, an amount equal to forty percent (40%) of the total net exterior wall area of each building elevation, excluding gables, windows, door, and related trim, shall be brick or stone. The balance of next exterior wall may be lap siding (excluding vinyl lap siding) and/or stucco.
- Exterior building materials **shall not** include the following:
 - Board and batten wood
 - Smooth-faced or gray concrete block
 - Painted concrete block
 - Tilt-up concrete panels
 - Field painted or pre-finished standard corrugated metal siding
 - Standard single or double tee concrete systems
 - Vinyl siding
- The rehabilitation of existing multi-family structures shall require the use of alternate materials subject to approval by the City Planning Commission.
- Predominant roof materials shall be high quality, durable material such as, but not limited to:
 - Wood shake shingles
 - Clay or concrete tiles
 - Composition shingles
 - Asphalt shingles
 - Other materials considered on a case-by-case basis
- Landscaping is required to screen all parking areas and service entries.