STATEWIDE CODE INTERPRETATION
NO. 15-03

Water Heater Seismic Strapping

Building Codes Division
Department of Consumer and Business Services

In accordance with OAR 918-008-0110, the information contained in this statewide code interpretation is legally binding on any party involved in activities regulated by applicable Oregon law, applicable Oregon regulations or the state building code. If the information contained in this statewide code interpretation is cited as a basis for a civil infraction, a representative of the jurisdiction must cite the interpretation number found in this document.

Code reference

2026 Oregon Plumbing Specialty Code (OPSC)—Section 507.2

Dates

Issued: Sept. 17, 2015
Last updated: Oct. 1, 2026

Questions

Section 507.2 of the OPSC requires storage tank water heaters to be anchored or strapped. However, this section does not provide complete minimum standards for anchoring or strapping methods or materials. What additional methods are acceptable?

Answers

Metallic plumber's tape or equivalent anchoring or strapping materials are acceptable. Connectors must have washers to ensure the connector does not pull through the strapping. The following connectors are acceptable; #12 wood screw with 1½ inch penetration at each end, or ¼ inch-diameter concrete anchor of 1½ inch minimum length.

Analysis

The division has determined that the minimum standards for seismic anchoring or strapping methods and materials contained in the rescinded interpretation are still applicable.

Contact

Visit the division website to contact a building code specialist.