



## What are the Requirements?

New detached one- and two-family dwelling and townhouse projects must provide a zone that is ready for future installation of a solar photovoltaic (PV) system if:

- They have an optimally oriented or low-sloped roofs
- The roof is over 600 square feet

The solar-ready zone must be at least:

- 300 square feet for a detached home
- 150 square feet for a townhome

The solar-ready zone must also be free of shading. Additional requirements to prepare for future solar include:

- A capped roof penetration sleeve
- An electrical conduit
- Structural capacity for the system
- Reserved space on the electrical panel
- A permanently posted construction documentation certificate

Projects may be exempt from this requirement if it has any of the following:

- A permanently installed onsite renewable energy system
- Suboptimal roof orientation
- A roof in full or partial shade most of the year

DEC R404.7 requires a permanently installed onsite renewable energy system, so only projects that are exempt from that requirement will need to meet the solar-ready requirements.

## How Does this Apply to Your Project?

If a project is not already installing a permanent onsite renewable energy system, the project team will need to evaluate if the roof meets the requirements outlined in DEC Section R404.6. If it does, the projects must comply with requirements of DEC Section R404.6.1 through R404.6.9.

## Why is this Important?

The solar-ready requirements ensure that dwellings are prepared for easy installation of solar PV in the future. Increasing distributed renewable power generation across Denver will help reduce emissions and meet Denver and Energy's climate and renewable goals.

## What is the Climate Impact?

The 2022 Denver Energy Code will reduce operational carbon emissions for residential new construction by 58% over the previous code. The solar-ready requirements of Section R404.6 do not directly reduce carbon emissions in Denver but has the potential to reduce future emissions by supporting future PV installations.

