



"Members should incorporate adaptation strategies with their clients to anticipate extreme weather events and minimize adverse effects on the environment, economy and public health"
AIA Code of Ethics

JOIN US IN TAKING ACTION THE AIA FLORIDA ENHANCED RESILIENCY GUIDE COMING SOON, EARLY 2027

MOISTURE CONTROL

Moisture is one of the greatest threats to the long-term performance, durability, and resilience of Florida buildings. The [AIA Florida Enhanced Resiliency Guide](#) provide architects and professionals in the A/E/C industry with practical guidance for designing building envelope systems that exceed the minimum requirements of the Florida Building Code to improve occupants protection, increase indoor air quality, extend building life, and reduce long-term maintenance costs. It emphasizes the importance of controlling moisture migration through thoughtful detailing, proper material selection, and coordinated construction practices. The guide reinforces compliance with Florida Building Code requirements, Florida Product Approvals (FPA), and Miami-Dade and Broward Notices of Acceptance (NOAs), while encouraging designers to clearly communicate design intent through comprehensive drawings and specifications. It also includes recommendations for exterior walls, roofs, balconies, terraces, quality assurance testing, and detailed drawing checklists that support resilient construction. Ultimately, these guidelines challenge architects to view code as the starting point, not the finish line, and to embrace resilient design strategies that create healthier, more durable, and higher-performing buildings capable of withstanding Florida's demanding climate for generations to come.

RESOURCE CONSERVATION

Florida's growing population and economic activities are increasing the demand for water for homes, industry, agriculture and tourism. Although the state is surrounded by water, it faces the seemingly counterintuitive risk of an inadequate freshwater supply. As aquifers are depleted, saltwater intrusion from the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of America becomes an increasing threat, compromising one of Florida's most essential natural resources. Water is fundamental to public health, economic vitality, and long-term resilience. To thrive without relying on costly desalination plants or facing future shortages, Florida must ensure that its population can live within available water resources. Achieving this goal will require more efficient water use across buildings, landscapes, and infrastructure. The [Enhanced Resiliency Guide](#) provides practical tools to support that effort. It establishes strategies for conserving water indoors, outdoors, and within wastewater conveyance systems. Within buildings, it promotes efficient plumbing fixtures, metering, and greater awareness of water consumption and its consequences. Outside buildings, it encourages a holistic approach to landscape design focused on responsible resource management. It is guided by the intended function of the landscape and a water budget tailored to local conditions.

FLOOD RESISTANT CONSTRUCTION

The flood-resistant construction guidelines [included in the Enhanced Resiliency Guide](#) establish enhanced standards to protect people and property by reducing the impacts of flooding. They are intended to protect lives, minimize flood damage, maintain access to essential public services, and reduce economic losses by recommending measures that go beyond the minimum requirements of the Florida Building Code and FEMA/ASCE standards. It also encourages architects and owners to design for NOAA's 50-year sea level rise projections where appropriate. These directives apply to all new construction and existing buildings in current and projected flood-prone areas. When feasible, they promote elevating all structures to Critical Facility performance standards to maintain functionality during and after flood events, while safeguarding people and property. Even when buildings are not substantially improved, flood-resistant retrofits are encouraged, including elevating critical equipment and using dry or wet flood-proofing techniques. Water-resistant materials should be used where practical to reduce repair costs and occupant displacement after flooding. The design of building elements below the design flood elevation should allow the free passage of water, avoid vulnerable enclosed spaces, and limit the size and function of accessory structures in high-risk flood zones.