



## Flood Vent Handout

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Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is the Federal agency that, in addition to carrying out other activities, administers the National Flood Insurance Program. FEMA requires flood vents in structures (both primary and accessory structures) that are intended to provide automatic entry and exit of floodwaters. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) has set a prescriptive requirement of 1 square inch of net open area for every square foot of enclosed area.

### **Enclosures That Require Openings include:**

- Solid perimeter foundation walls including crawlspaces
- Garages attached to elevated buildings
- Enclosed areas under buildings elevated on open foundations
- Enclosed areas with breakaway walls under buildings elevated on open foundations
- Solid perimeter foundation walls on which manufactured homes are installed
- Accessory structures (detached garages and storage sheds)

### **Non-Engineered Openings**

- 1 square inch of net open area for each square foot of enclosed area
- Each enclosed area must have a minimum of two openings
- Openings on at least two sides of each enclosed area
- The bottom of each opening must be no more than 1 foot above the higher of the interior or exterior grade immediately under the opening
- Screens, grates, grilles, fixed louvers, or other covers or devices must not block or impede the automatic flow of floodwaters

### **Unacceptable Measures (as determined by FEMA)**

- Air ventilation devices that can be closed manually, unless they are permanently disabled in the open position.
- Air ventilation devices that have detachable solid covers for cold weather
- Air ventilation devices that are designed to open and close based on temperature, unless they also are designed to allow for the automatic entry and exit of floodwaters.
- Windows
- Garage doors or exterior doors without openings
- Gaps between the garage door and the door jamb or walls

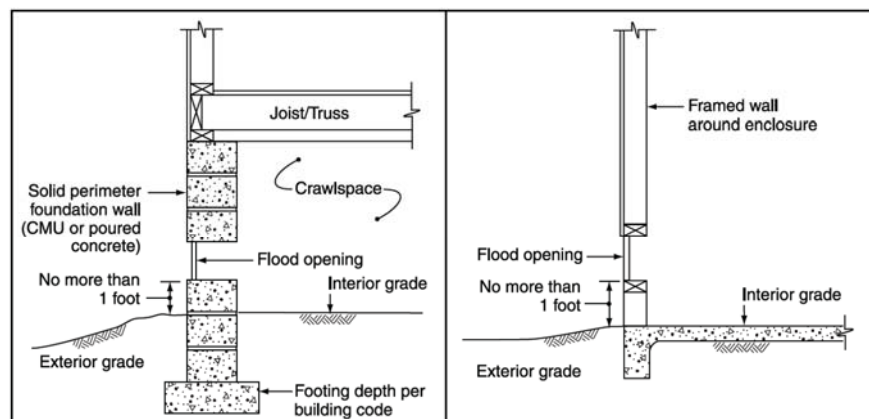


Figure 1. Typical enclosures with flood openings