



DENVER AMENDMENT PROPOSAL FORM FOR PROPOSALS TO THE 2019 DENVER BUILDING CODE AMENDMENTS AND THE 2021 INTERNATIONAL CODES

DENVER
THE MILE HIGH CITY

2021 CODE DEVELOPMENT CYCLE

1) **Name:** Kristen Salinas **Date:** 10/20/2021
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2) One proposal per this document is to be provided with clear and concise information.

Is a separate graphic file provided ("X" to answer): ___ Yes or X No

3) Highlight the code and acronym that applies to the proposal

<u>Acronym</u>	<u>Code Name</u>	<u>Acronym</u>	<u>Code Name</u>
DBC-AP	Denver Building Code–Administrative Provisions	IPC	International Plumbing Code
IBC	International Building Code	IRC	International Residential Code
IECC	International Energy Conservation Code	IFGC	International Fuel Gas Code
IEBC	International Existing Building Code	IMC	International Mechanical Code
IFC	International Fire Code	DGC	Denver Green Code

AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

Please provide all the following items in your amendment proposal.

Code Sections/Tables/Figures Proposed for Revision:

(New) 501.3.3.5

Proposal:

Revision New Text Delete/Substitute

501.3.3.5 (5.3.3.5) Rock Mulch Allowances (Mandatory). Rock mulch, such as gravel or decomposed granite, shall only be permitted in high-traffic unplanted areas and cannot make up more than 20% of the total landscaping area (SF) including for decorative or edging purposes. The material used as rock mulch shall have an SRI value of 29 or greater and be sized appropriately between 1/2 inch to 2 inches to mitigate spill over onto neighboring surfaces.

Exception: Rock mulch associated with stormwater management systems.

Add Definition in Chapter 3:

High-traffic. Those areas used regularly for foot traffic such as walkways, paths, trails, or vehicle traffic such as driveways and access roads.

Supporting Information (DRAFT):

All proposals must include a written explanation and justification as to how they address physical, environmental, and/or customary characteristics that are specific to the City and County of Denver. The following questions must be answered for a proposal to be considered.

- Purpose: What does your proposal achieve?

This proposal limits the amount of rock mulch used in landscaping areas, as it can contribute to urban heat island effect, transfers heat to underlying soils, damage soil and plants by increasing chemical fertilizer use, and does not decompose to support healthy soil.

- Reason: Why is your proposal necessary?

This proposal is part of developing a robust urban landscape. One of the components is creating a healthy soil, minimizing solar heat gain, and minimizing nuisance from spillover to sidewalks and rights-of-way.

- Substantiation: Why is your proposal valid? (i.e. technical justification)
By minimizing rock mulching in landscaping areas, organic mulch will be used more often which is better for soil health. By specifying lighter colored rocks, the heat transfer to soils underneath and adjacent are minimized. Additionally, stray rocks will not be a nuisance for landscape maintenance.

Bibliography and Access to Materials (as needed when substantiating material is associated with the amendment proposal):
Plant Talk, Mulches for Home Grounds: <https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/yard-garden/mulches-for-home-grounds-7-214/>
Article: <https://www.denverpost.com/2014/06/25/rocky-horror-garden-show-coloradans-love-hate-affair-with-gravel/>
San Diego Sustainable Landscaping Guideline Book: https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/dpw/WATERSHED_PROTECTION_PROGRAM/watershedpdf/Residential-Outreach/English/San_Diego_Sustainable_Landscape_Guideline_Book.pdf

Other Regulations Proposed to be Affected

N/A

Referenced Standards (DRAFT):

N/A

Impact (DRAFT):

How will this proposal impact cost and restrictiveness of code? ("X" answer for each item below)

Cost of construction:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase	<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease	<input type="checkbox"/> No Impact
Cost of design:	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase	<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact
Restrictiveness:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase	<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease	<input type="checkbox"/> No Impact