

North Carolina Residential General Contractor Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	16

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

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- 1. What is the minimum length for the top layer using mineral surface roll roofing as a valley flashing?**
 - A. 24 inches**
 - B. 30 inches**
 - C. 36 inches**
 - D. 42 inches**
- 2. How much bearing is required on masonry/concrete for the ends of each rafter or ceiling joist?**
 - A. 1 inch**
 - B. 2 inches**
 - C. 3 inches**
 - D. 4 inches**
- 3. What is a contingency fee in a construction contract?**
 - A. An additional fee allocated for unforeseen expenses during the project**
 - B. A fixed fee for contract management services**
 - C. A penalty fee for late performance**
 - D. A discount applied to the total project cost**
- 4. How many hours after the application of polyurethane roofing do the standards comply?**
 - A. 1-24**
 - B. 2-72**
 - C. 24-48**
 - D. 48-72**
- 5. What slope range indicates the use of one ply for asphalt shingles?**
 - A. 2:12-4:12**
 - B. 1:12-3:12**
 - C. 3:12-5:12**
 - D. 4:12-6:12**

6. What type of doors are included in the fenestration definition?

- A. Only opaque doors**
- B. Both glass and opaque doors**
- C. Only glazed doors**
- D. Only sliding doors**

7. What is the minimum net clear opening dimension for attic access?

- A. 18" x 24"**
- B. 20" x 30"**
- C. 22" x 36"**
- D. 24" x 48"**

8. What is the square footage limit for a residential contractor in North Carolina?

- A. 20,000 square feet**
- B. 25,000 square feet**
- C. 30,000 square feet**
- D. 35,000 square feet**

9. What must contractors verify to ensure compliance with zoning laws?

- A. Federal construction codes**
- B. Local zoning ordinances**
- C. Safety regulations**
- D. Building permit applications**

10. For proper installation, sheet metal veneer ties should use which gauge?

- A. No. 20 gauge**
- B. No. 22 gauge**
- C. No. 24 gauge**
- D. No. 26 gauge**

Answers

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1. C
2. C
3. A
4. B
5. A
6. B
7. B
8. C
9. B
10. B

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Explanations

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1. What is the minimum length for the top layer using mineral surface roll roofing as a valley flashing?

- A. 24 inches**
- B. 30 inches**
- C. 36 inches**
- D. 42 inches**

The minimum length for the top layer using mineral surface roll roofing as a valley flashing being 36 inches is based on standard roofing practices that ensure proper water drainage and effective protection against leaks. This length helps to provide adequate coverage over the valley area, which is largely susceptible to water accumulation and runoff. Using a 36-inch section allows for proper overlap with the underlying layers, which is essential in preventing water from seeping into the roofing structure. Adequate length also facilitates a secure installation, reducing the likelihood of damage during wind events or heavy rain. In summary, adhering to the 36-inch guideline for valley flashing with mineral surface roll roofing is crucial for maintaining the integrity and durability of the roofing system, ensuring it functions effectively in shedding water and protecting the underlying structures. This standard is recognized and followed in the roofing industry to ensure long-lasting results.

2. How much bearing is required on masonry/concrete for the ends of each rafter or ceiling joist?

- A. 1 inch**
- B. 2 inches**
- C. 3 inches**
- D. 4 inches**

The requirement for bearing of rafter or ceiling joist ends on masonry or concrete is typically established in the building codes to ensure structural integrity. A bearing of 3 inches is specified for the ends of each rafter or ceiling joist. This measurement ensures that the weight of the roof or ceiling system is adequately supported, allowing for appropriate load distribution and stability. By providing this minimum bearing surface, the structure minimizes the potential for movement or failure at the connection points, which could occur if the bearing surface were inadequate. In contexts like these, building codes are designed not only for safety but also for long-term performance of the building. Therefore, adhering to the requirement of 3 inches of bearing is crucial in any construction or renovation project involving rafters or ceiling joists attached to masonry or concrete.

3. What is a contingency fee in a construction contract?

A. An additional fee allocated for unforeseen expenses during the project

B. A fixed fee for contract management services

C. A penalty fee for late performance

D. A discount applied to the total project cost

A contingency fee in a construction contract is specifically designed to cover unforeseen expenses that may arise during the course of a project. This fee serves as a financial buffer to address unexpected costs such as price increases for materials, changes in project scope, or other unplanned expenses that were not explicitly accounted for in the initial budget. By including a contingency fee, both the contractor and the client can have peace of mind that there are funds available to manage these uncertainties, minimizing the risk of financial strain on the project and ensuring it can progress smoothly without significant delays due to unforeseen issues. In the context of construction projects, it is not simply an arbitrary addition; rather, it represents a prudent approach to managing the financial aspects of the contract, providing structured support where variability might occur.

4. How many hours after the application of polyurethane roofing do the standards comply?

A. 1-24

B. 2-72

C. 24-48

D. 48-72

The correct response indicates that compliance with the standards for polyurethane roofing is determined within a time frame of 2 to 72 hours after application. This period is critical because it encompasses the curing time of the polyurethane product, during which it undergoes chemical reactions to achieve its necessary properties, such as durability, flexibility, and adhesion. Adhering to this specific time frame ensures that the roofing installation meets safety and quality benchmarks essential in the construction industry. Within this period, environmental conditions such as humidity, temperature, and exposure to sunlight can affect the curing process. Therefore, understanding that compliance is measured within this range allows contractors to effectively plan their work schedules and adhere to best practices in roofing installation. This knowledge also helps ensure that the finished product performs well over time, reducing the likelihood of issues such as leaks or premature degradation. The alternatives presented do not reflect the accurate curing time associated with polyurethane roofing, making the selected range of 2 to 72 hours the most appropriate choice for compliance.

5. What slope range indicates the use of one ply for asphalt shingles?

- A. 2:12-4:12**
- B. 1:12-3:12**
- C. 3:12-5:12**
- D. 4:12-6:12**

The correct answer highlights that a slope range of 2:12 to 4:12 is specified for the use of one ply for asphalt shingles. This slope is considered suitable for a single layer of shingles because it provides enough angle to ensure proper drainage while minimizing the risk of water pooling, which can lead to leaks and damage. In roofing terminology, the ratio represents the vertical rise over the horizontal run. A slope of 2:12 means that for every 12 inches of horizontal distance, there is a rise of 2 inches, while a 4:12 slope rises 4 inches over the same distance. The range specified offers a balance that allows for adequate water runoff, making a single ply sufficient for effective waterproofing in these slope conditions. This range is critical because roofs with steeper slopes (above 4:12) can typically handle heavier materials or additional layers due to better drainage. Conversely, slopes that are too low (less than 2:12) often require additional protection or different roofing materials altogether. Therefore, utilizing one ply in the 2:12 to 4:12 range is standard practice to ensure durability and effectiveness in residential construction under that slope condition.

6. What type of doors are included in the fenestration definition?

- A. Only opaque doors**
- B. Both glass and opaque doors**
- C. Only glazed doors**
- D. Only sliding doors**

The definition of fenestration encompasses any openings in a building's envelope that includes windows, doors, skylights, and other similar features. This term is generally used in relation to how these elements contribute to the building's performance regarding light, airflow, and sometimes thermal insulation. By including both glass and opaque doors in the definition, it acknowledges that fenestration systems can vary widely in their materials and functions. Glass doors are explicitly included due to their capability to permit natural light and visibility, while opaque doors can serve as functional entry points without contributing visibility or light penetration. As such, both types of doors play critical roles in the overall design and efficiency of a structure. A narrow interpretation focusing exclusively on one type of door would not capture the complete range of fenestration elements, which is why the correct understanding includes both glass and opaque doors.

7. What is the minimum net clear opening dimension for attic access?

- A. 18" x 24"**
- B. 20" x 30"**
- C. 22" x 36"**
- D. 24" x 48"**

The minimum net clear opening dimension for attic access specified in building codes is indeed 20 inches by 30 inches. This dimension is designed to provide adequate space for safe entry and exit for maintenance and inspection purposes. An opening of this size ensures that individuals can maneuver safely into the attic without unnecessary risk of injury. It allows for the safe passage of tools and materials as well, which is particularly important for contractors and inspectors who may need to perform work or assessments in the attic space. Regulating the size of attic access openings helps promote safety in residential structures by standardizing entry points, making it easier to access areas that may require periodic inspection, maintenance, or repairs. As such, choosing the correct opening dimension is critical in meeting safety standards and ensuring functionality while adhering to industry regulations.

8. What is the square footage limit for a residential contractor in North Carolina?

- A. 20,000 square feet**
- B. 25,000 square feet**
- C. 30,000 square feet**
- D. 35,000 square feet**

In North Carolina, the square footage limit for a residential contractor is set at 30,000 square feet. This limitation is particularly relevant for contractors who are involved in residential construction projects, as it delineates the maximum area that they can work on without requiring additional licensing or certifications. Understanding this regulation is crucial for contractors to ensure they remain compliant with state laws governing residential construction. By adhering to the 30,000 square feet limit, contractors can effectively manage their projects within the specified parameters established by the North Carolina Licensing Board for General Contractors. This helps to maintain a standard of practice within the residential building industry and protects both contractors and homeowners.

9. What must contractors verify to ensure compliance with zoning laws?

- A. Federal construction codes
- B. Local zoning ordinances**
- C. Safety regulations
- D. Building permit applications

To ensure compliance with zoning laws, contractors must verify local zoning ordinances. These ordinances dictate how land can be used within specific areas, including regulations on building heights, densities, types of structures allowed, and the specific purposes for which a property can be utilized. Understanding local zoning ordinances is crucial because they govern the planning and development of land and are tailored to each municipality's needs and goals. Contractors need to know these regulations to avoid potential legal issues, ensure that their projects are permissible under local laws, and secure any necessary approvals before beginning work. While federal construction codes, safety regulations, and building permit applications are important elements in the overall construction process, they do not specifically relate to zoning compliance. Federal codes mainly address national standards for construction safety and functionality, while safety regulations pertain to ensuring the health and safety of workers and occupants. Building permit applications are a step often occurring after zoning compliance has been confirmed, as permits are typically issued based on compliance with local zoning and building codes.

10. For proper installation, sheet metal veneer ties should use which gauge?

- A. No. 20 gauge
- B. No. 22 gauge**
- C. No. 24 gauge
- D. No. 26 gauge

The proper gauge for sheet metal veneer ties is No. 22 gauge. This gauge provides the necessary strength and durability required for supporting veneer materials in construction. Using a No. 22 gauge ensures that the ties can withstand loads without bending or breaking, which is essential for maintaining the structural integrity of the masonry or veneer attachment. No. 22 gauge is a standard that balances rigidity and weight, making it ideal for its purpose in connecting veneer systems to their structural supports. It's commonly utilized in various construction applications where both performance and compliance with building codes are critical, ensuring adequate safety and stability. In residential construction, adhering to the correct gauge not only supports the longevity of the installation but also aligns with industry best practices and requirements, which is vital for passing inspections and maintaining adherence to regulations. Proper installation of veneer ties using the appropriate gauge directly impacts the overall reliability of the building envelope.

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://ncresidentialgencontractor.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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