

Definitions

Anti-Siphon:	Also known as back flow prevention. This device prevents backflow due to negative pressure (siphon) from occurring. Backflow can contaminate the potable water supply.
Baluster:	An upright support for a rail.
Beam Pocket:	Pocket or impression in a foundation that supports a steel beam or other structural member.
Boiler:	A device that produces hot water or steam for heating.
Breaker:	A switch-type mechanism that opens automatically when it senses an overload (excess current).
Built Up Roof:	Roofs of this type may have 3, 4, or 5 layers of roofing felt, each mopped with hot tar or asphalt. The final surface is coated with asphalt and covered with gravel embedded in the hot tar.
Cellulose:	Insulation made of loose fill wood or paper by-products.
Combustibles:	Any building material that can burn.
Combustion Air:	A fresh air supply to furnace, boiler or hot water heater that allows the efficient burning of the fuel.
Composite Roof:	Shingles usually made of asphalt imbedded with fiberglass fibers.
Crawl Space:	A shallow space below the living space of a house which has no basement. It is normally enclosed by the foundation walls.
Dimensional Lumber:	Yard lumber from 2 to 4 inches thick and 2 or more inches wide. Includes joist, rafters, studs and small timbers.
Double Hung Window:	A window that has an upper and lower sash that slides vertically in separate grooves in the side jambs. This type of window lets you open one-half of the total window area, either top or bottom.

Drip Loop:	Slack in electrical overhead service that allows water to drip off before entering the weatherhead.
Efflorescence:	When concrete is damaged by water, the water leaches through the concrete and pulls the lime to the surface. This gives the concrete a white, chalky appearance.
Fascia:	A flat trim piece located on the outer face of a soffit or cornice. It may be used alone or in combination with moldings.
Flashing:	Sheet metal or other material used in roof and wall construction to protect a building from water seepage.
Flue:	The space or passage in a chimney that allows smoke, gas, or fumes to pass up and out of a building.
Fuse:	Fuses consist of two terminals with a piece of specially designed metal called a fusible element in between. When current flow is excessive the fusible element melts, and the fuse opens the circuit "blow a fuse".
GFCI:	Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter: A device that senses ground faults and reacts by opening the circuit, stopping the flow of electrical current.
Glazing:	The Glass set into a window sash.
Grounding:	Conductor runs in an electrical system which deliberately connects to the ground electrode (water pipe or rod). Its purpose is to provide a ground point throughout the system.
Heat Exchanger:	The devise in a warm air furnace that transfers the heat from the flame to the air.
Heaving:	The movement of a material by the force of the ground usually associated with ground water or ground freezing.
Hip Roof:	A roof that rises by inclined planes from all four sides of a building.
Hydrostatic Pressure:	The weight of water pushing on an item or structure.
Joist:	A horizontal support member, used to carry floor and ceiling loads. Joist are supported by larger beams, girders, or bearing walls.
Knob and tube:	Old technique of wiring where hot and neutral wires are run separately through knobs and tubes only coming into

contact at the receptacle or fixture. There is no ground wire on these circuits.

Masonry:	Stone, brick, concrete, concrete-block or other similar building units of materials. This material is bonded together with mortar to form a wall, pier or similar mass.
Mineral Wool:	Loose fill insulation made of mineral fibers.
Parapet Wall:	Short wall, half wall.
Plumb:	Exactly perpendicular; vertical.
Plumbing Stack:	The waste water venting that is brought together for one penetration through the roof.
Potable Water:	Water suitable for drinking.
Rafter:	One of a series of structural members of roof designed to support roof loads.
Resilient Flooring:	Vinyl sheet flooring as well as vinyl, rubber, cork manufactured in tile form.
R-Value:	Resistance rating of thermal insulation.
Riser:	Each of the vertical boards closing the spaces between the treads of a stairway.
Roof Valley:	The internal angle formed by the junctions of two sloping sides of a roof.
Scupper:	Water catch basins used to collect water from porches and decks and delivering to gutters or downspouts.
Service Panel:	The main electrical panel that is used to distribute the power from the service (either underground or overhead) to the building.
Sill:	1) The lowest member of the frame of a structure, resting on the foundation and supporting the floor joist or uprights of a wall. 2) The member forming the lower side of an opening, as a door sill or window sill.
Sill Cock:	Outdoors water faucet.
Single Hung Window:	A window that has an upper and lower sash but only the lower sash slides vertically in the side jambs.

Soffit:	1) The overhang of a pitched roof at the eave line, also known as a cornice. 2) A lowered ceiling section over the top of cabinets.
Spalling:	Damage to concrete where patches of concrete are failing.
Threshold:	A strip of wood or metal with beveled edges used over finished and the sill of exterior doors.
Trusses:	A manufactured frame or jointed structure used as a roof support.
Valley:	The internal angle formed by the junction of two sloping sides of a roof.
Vapor Barrier:	Material used to keep water vapor and condensation out of walls. Also used on the earthen floors of crawl spaces.
Weatherstrip:	Narrow or jamb-width sections of thin metal or other material installed around windows and doors to help seal and insulate openings.