



**Town of Clover**  
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## **CODE INTERPRETATION**

### **QUESTION**

What are the requirements for supporting a water heater or HVAC equipment in the attic on trusses?

### **CODE REFERENCE:**

**Clover Policy**

### **ANSWER**

Trusses are engineered structural members. They are designed to support a specific load. Trusses supporting water heaters or furnaces shall be engineered to support those loads (a 50 gallon water heater can create a concentrated load weighing more than 525 pounds).

Mechanical equipment must be installed on a platform meeting the code requirements for access. The platform shall be designed so that the insulation beneath it is rated at R30 or greater.

Truss Design Documents shall be provided detailing the capability of designated trusses to carry the load for new homes. Water heaters shall be installed according to the design plans and the weight shall be distributed over two or more trusses.

For existing homes loads added to trusses shall be distributed across multiple trusses directly over a load bearing wall or beam, unless otherwise designed by an engineer.

Building Official / Town of Clover

Date: May 31, 2011