



**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**  
**BUILDING DIVISION**  
 276 Fourth Avenue Chula Vista CA 91910  
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# CARPORT SPECIFICATIONS & DETAILS

## FORM 4590

**I. DEFINITION**

A carport is a covered motor vehicle parking structure accessory to a single family dwelling or duplex. It may be freestanding or attached to another structure. A carport cannot exceed 1,000 square feet in area or one story in height and must be entirely open on two or more sides except for structural supports. There can be no enclosed use above a carport. Any structure which does not meet the above definition must comply with all regulations relating to a garage.

**II. GENERAL PLAN DESIGN REQUIREMENTS:**

- A. Carports must be entirely open on two or more sides.
- B. For carports within 6' of a dwelling, include a floor plan showing the use and dimensions of all rooms adjacent to the carport, and size and type of all windows and doors from those rooms.
- C. For carports proposed to be located less than 5' from the property line, the wall on the property line side is required to be constructed of one hour rated construction, without openings, from the foundation to underside of the roof sheathing. A rated wall is not required on the side of the carport adjacent to a street or alley.
- D. No fire protection is required for the common wall between a one- or two-family dwelling and a carport.
- E. Minimum headroom height from the floor of the carport to the bottom of the roof rafters is 7 feet and to the bottom of a roof beam or header is 6'-8".
- F. All electrical wiring and equipment should be shown or noted to comply with requirements governing exterior electrical installations.

**III. STRUCTURAL REQUIREMENTS:**

- A. Concrete mix for footings must meet a minimum compressive strength of  $f'c = 2,500$  psi or the following proportions by volume; 1 part Portland cement,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  parts sand,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  parts of  $\frac{3}{4}$ " maximum sized gravel and 7 gallons of water per sack of cement.
- B. Lumber must meet the following requirements
  - 1. Be of #2 Douglas fir-larch or better grade.
  - 2. Must be grade marked.
  - 3. Joists, girders and posts may be required to be protected against decay and termites.
  - 4. Posts must be 4" x 4" minimum nominal dimension.
- C. Posts must be anchored at the lower end and

braced on the upper end. Decorative type bracing may be substituted if similar resistance to lateral loading is provided.

- D. Carport posts and/or columns may be supported on slabs (minimum  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " thickness) of not less than 2500 psi compressive strength, anchored with standard approved post base, installed per manufacturer's installation instructions. Pad footings are not required when the total load (live plus dead) does not exceed 750 pounds.
- F. Specify all proposed roof coverings on plans. If plastic roof coverings are used, they shall be installed such that the corrugations are perpendicular to and across the supports and be in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions.
- G. All roofs are required to slope at a minimum of  $\frac{1}{4}$ " per foot for drainage purposes.
- H. If roof rafters are to be supported by an existing exterior wall, either of the following attachments may be used:
  - 1. A ledger fastened to the studs with  $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 5" lag screws spaced at 16" on center maximum, staggered, if the rafter span is greater than 10'. The ledger shall be the same nominal dimension as the roof rafters.
  - 2. A ledger fastened to the studs with  $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 5" lag screws spaced at 48" on center maximum, staggered, if the rafter span is 10' or less. The ledger shall be the same nominal dimension as the roof rafters.
  - 3. The rafters may be placed directly on the existing top plate of the wall.

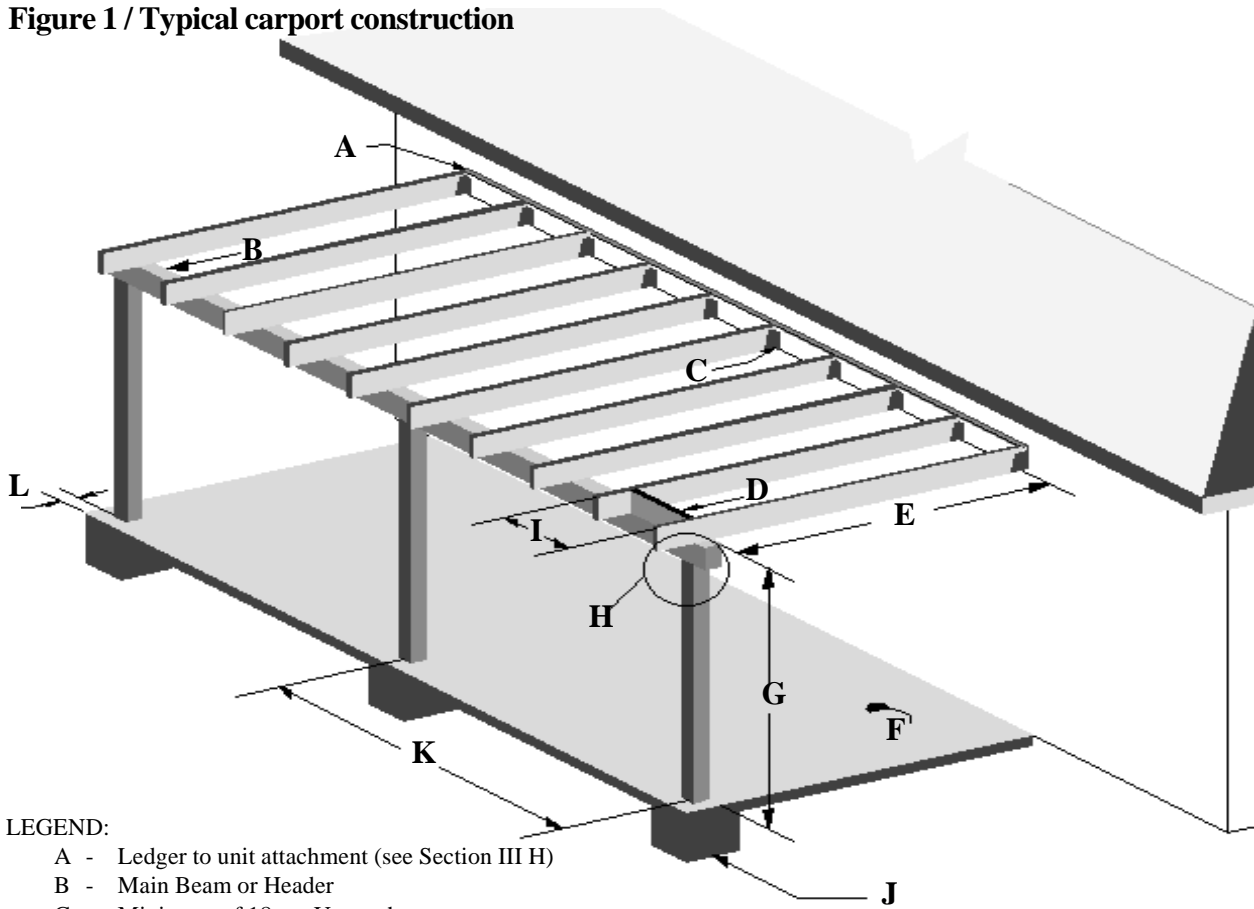
**IV. DESIGN LOADING**

Carports are required to be designed to support all roof dead load plus a minimum vertical live load of 20 lbs/ft<sup>2</sup>. In addition, they shall be designed to resist horizontal wind loads in accordance with the wind design criteria contained in CA Residential Code R301.2.1.

**V. PLAN SUBMITTAL PACKAGE:**

- A. Three plot plans. (See Form 4595, "HOW TO PREPARE A RESIDENTIAL PLOT PLAN".)
- B. Two copies of this form (highlight specific design parameters); or,
- C. Two copies of an International Code Council (ICC) approved plan available

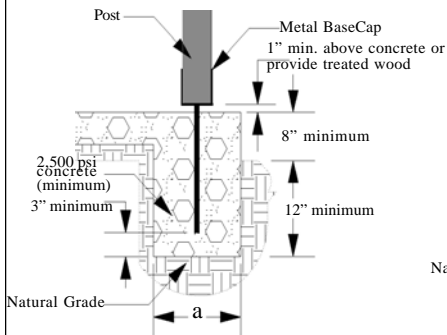
**Figure 1 / Typical carport construction**



**LEGEND:**

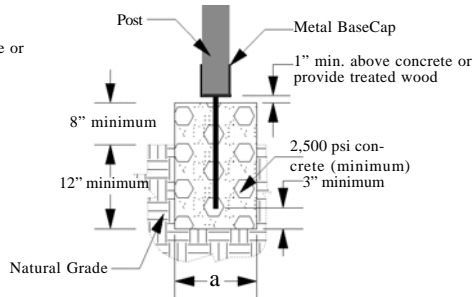
- A - Ledger to unit attachment (see Section III H)
- B - Main Beam or Header
- C - Minimum of 18 ga. U-type hanger
- D - Continuous solid blocking between joists more than 6" in depth
- E - Rafter Span
- F - Concrete Slab
- G - 7'-0" minimum height
- H - Beam to Post connection (see Figure 4 of this page)
- I - Rafter spacing (center to center)
- J - Footing (see Footing detail illustration)
- K - Post spacing (center to center)
- L - 6" minimum distance from edge to post (typical)

**Figure 2/Anchor and footing detail, integrated slab**

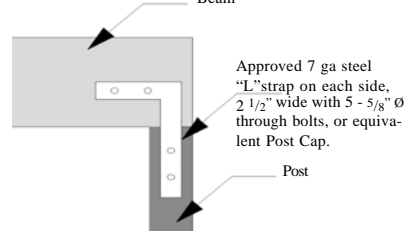


Note: Dimensions "a" are typical on all sides of the footings.

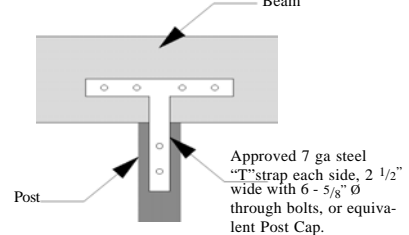
**Figure 3/Anchor and footing detail, isolated pier**



**Figure 4/ Post & Beam Connection detail**



**Figure 5/Post & Beam Connection detail**



- from your material supplier. Delete or cross-out details not applicable to the carport design; or,
- D. Two copies of special carport design. Specify roof covering, rafter spans, post spacings and footing details.

**VI. INSPECTIONS:**

An inspection card is issued at the time that the permit is obtained. The inspector signs the card as the construction is inspected and approved. The City of Chula Vista requires that the approved plans, Inspection Record Card and the permit be retained on the site until the final inspection has been approved. Two separate inspections are required: 1) Footings; when footings have been excavated but before concrete is placed, 2) When ledger beams are attached to an existing structure, and, final; when work is complete. Call (619) 409-5434 to schedule an inspection.

**VII. TABLES:**

The attached tables assume the following conditions:

- A. Roof live load is 20 psf
- B. Roof dead load is less than or equal to 7 psf (i.e. no concrete or clay tile).
- C. Lumber must be #2 DFL or better.
- D. Posts must be 4" x 4" minimum.
- E. Soil bearing capacity is maximum 1,000 psf.

Post spacing (ft)	MINIMUM BEAM SIZES <sup>1, 2, 3</sup>							
	Rafter Span (ft)							
	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
4	4 x 4	4 x 4	4 x 6	4 x 6	4 x 6	4 x 6	4 x 6	4 x 6
6	4 x 6	4 x 6	4 x 6	4 x 6	4 x 6	4 x 6	4 x 6	4 x 6
8	4 x 6	4 x 6	4 x 6	4 x 6	4 x 6	4 x 6	4 x 8	4 x 8
10	4 x 6	4 x 6	4 x 8	4 x 8	4 x 8	4 x 8	4 x 8	4 x 8
12	4 x 8	4 x 8	4 x 8	4 x 8	4 x 10	4 x 10	4 x 10	4 x 10
14	4 x 8	4 x 10	4 x 10	4 x 10	4 x 10	4 x 12	4 x 12	4 x 12
16	4 x 10	4 x 10	4 x 12	4 x 12	4 x 12	4 x 12	4 x 14	4 x 14
18	4 x 10	4 x 12	4 x 12	4 x 14	4 x 14	4 x 14	4 x 16	4 x 16
20	4 x 12	4 x 14	4 x 14	4 x 16	4 x 16	4 x 16		

Post spacing (ft)	MINIMUM "a" FOOTING SIZES (inches)							
	Rafter Span (ft) <sup>1, 2, 3</sup>							
	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
4	12"*	12"*	12"*	12"*	12"*	12"*	14"*	14"*
6	12"*	12"*	14"*	14"*	14"	14"	16"	16"
8	14"*	14"*	14"*	16"	16"	16"	18"	20"
10	14"*	16"*	16"	18"	18"	18"	20"	22"
12	16"*	16"	18"	20"	20"	20"	22"	24"
14	16"	18"	20"	20"	22"	22"	24"	24"
16	18"	20"	20"	22"	24"	24"	27"	27"
18	20"	20"	22"	24"	24"	24"	27"	30"
20	20"	22"	24"	24"	27"	27"	30"	30"

MINIMUM RAFTER SIZES <sup>1, 2, 3</sup>				
Rafter span (ft)	Rafter spacing (center to center)			
	12" <sup>4</sup>	16" <sup>4</sup>	24" <sup>4</sup>	32" <sup>4</sup>
6	2 x 4	2 x 4	2 x 4	2 x 6
7	2 x 4	2 x 4	2 x 6	2 x 6
8	2 x 4	2 x 6	2 x 6	2 x 6
9	2 x 6	2 x 6	2 x 6	2 x 6
10	2 x 6	2 x 6	2 x 6	2 x 8
11	2 x 6	2 x 6	2 x 8	2 x 8
12	2 x 8	2 x 8	2 x 8	2 x 8
13	2 x 8	2 x 8	2 x 8	2 x 10
14	2 x 8	2 x 8	2 x 10	2 x 10
15	2 x 8	2 x 10	2 x 10	2 x 12
16	2 x 10	2 x 10	2 x 12	2 x 12
17	2 x 10	2 x 12	2 x 12	2 x 12
18	2 x 10	2 x 12	2 x 12	2 x 12
19	2 x 12	2 x 12	2 x 12	2 x 14
20	2 x 12	2 x 12	2 x 12	2 x 14

<sup>1</sup>Roof live load = 20 psf; dead load = 7 psf

<sup>2</sup>All lumber to be Douglas Fir-Larch No. 2

<sup>3</sup>Roof total load exceeding 27 psf shall be design by a

California Registered Architect, Civil or Structural Engineer.

<sup>4</sup> Provide 3/8" plywood sheathing at 12" & 16" rafter spacing, 1/2" plywood sheathing at 24" rafter spacing, and 5/8" plywood sheathing at 32" rafter spacing.

\*Post may be supported by concrete slab as stated in Section III, Item D.