

What is my BFE?

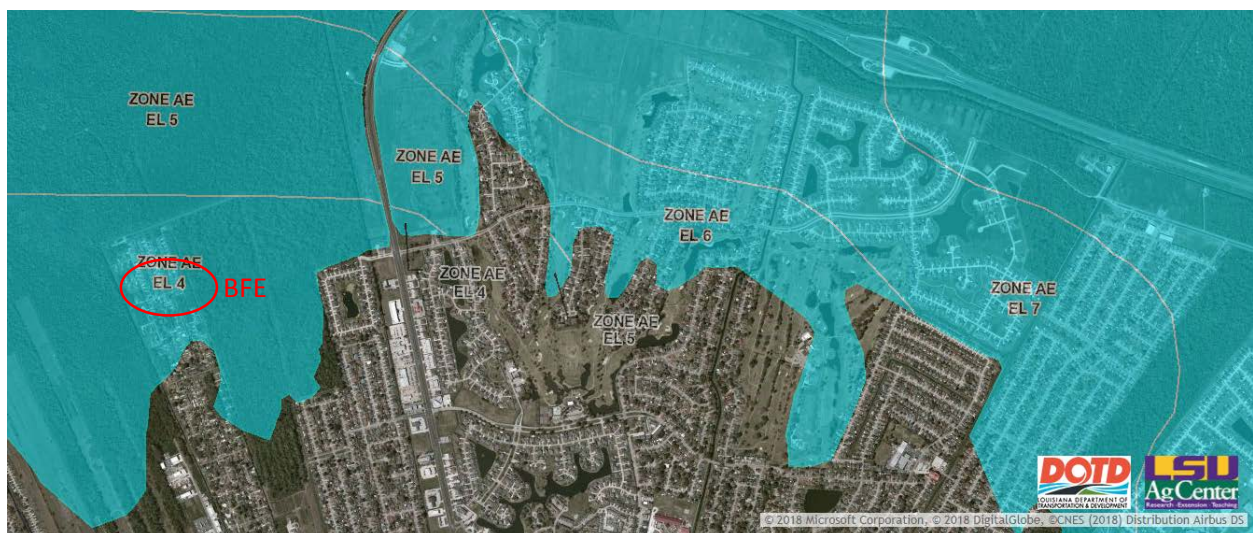
“Base flood” or “100-year flood” means the flood having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.

Did you know: In the special flood hazard area (a “flood zone”), there is at least a 1 in 4 chance of flooding during a 30-year mortgage?

“Base flood elevation” means the water surface elevation resulting from the base flood/100-year flood.

- How do I figure out my BFE?

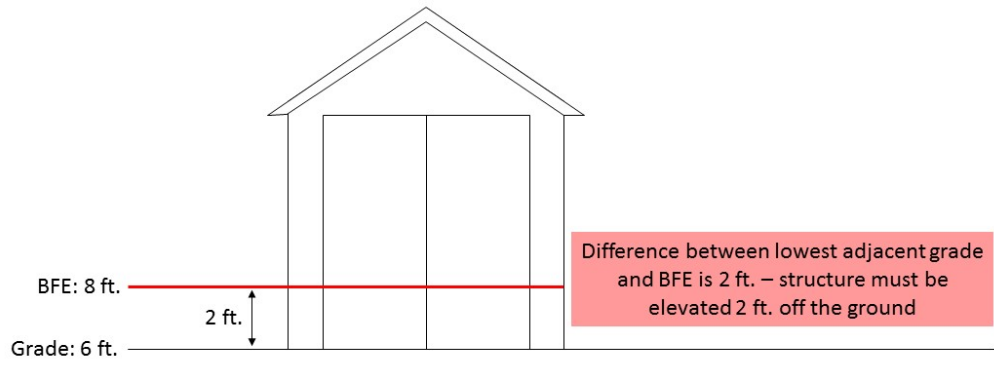
You can find your base flood elevation by looking at a [FEMA flood map](#), using the [LSU Ag Center's website](#), requesting an elevation certificate from a Louisiana Professional Land Surveyor, or by calling your parish floodplain manager at: (985) 651-5565.



- How do I figure out how high I need to elevate my home?

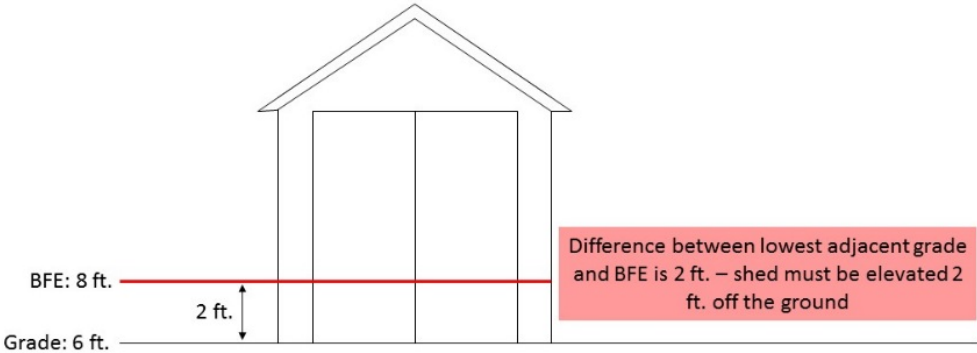
You will need to find out how high the ground is (“grade”) at your site. Then you will need to subtract that number from your base flood elevation (“BFE”) – this will tell you the minimum amount you will need to elevate a new structure off of the ground. Optional: You should plan to build in an extra 1 ft. or “freeboard” in order to provide for any additional flood risk in the area.

How high do I elevate?



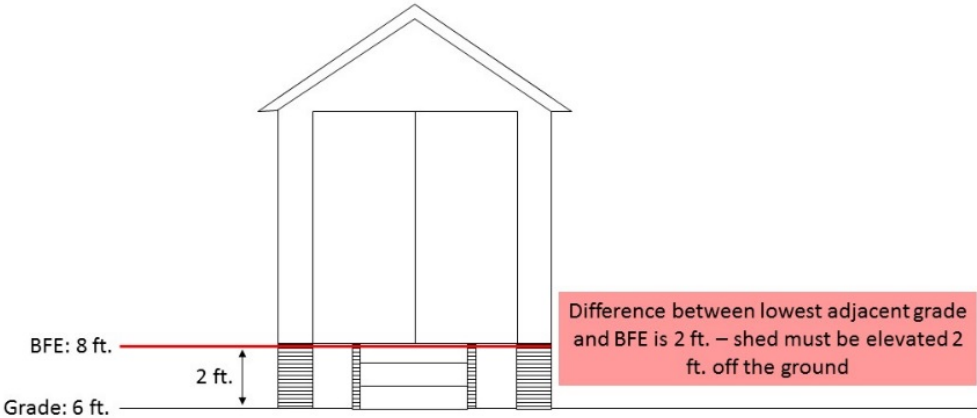
Common flood zone construction issues

Scenario 1: Shed



Scenario 1: Shed Option A: Elevate the shed to BFE

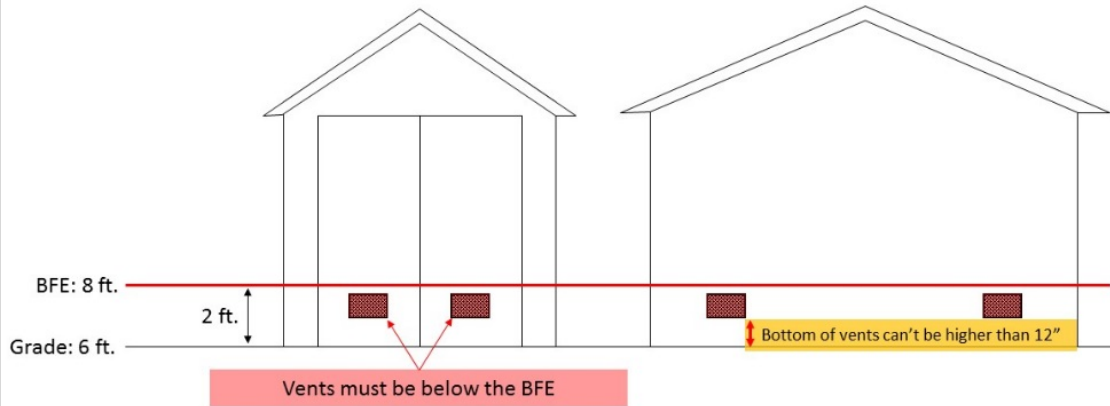
Notes:
1. For A zones, lowest floor must be at or above BFE, for V zones, bottom of lowest horizontal structural member must be at or above BFE.



Scenario 1: Shed
Option B: Add vents to the shed

Notes:

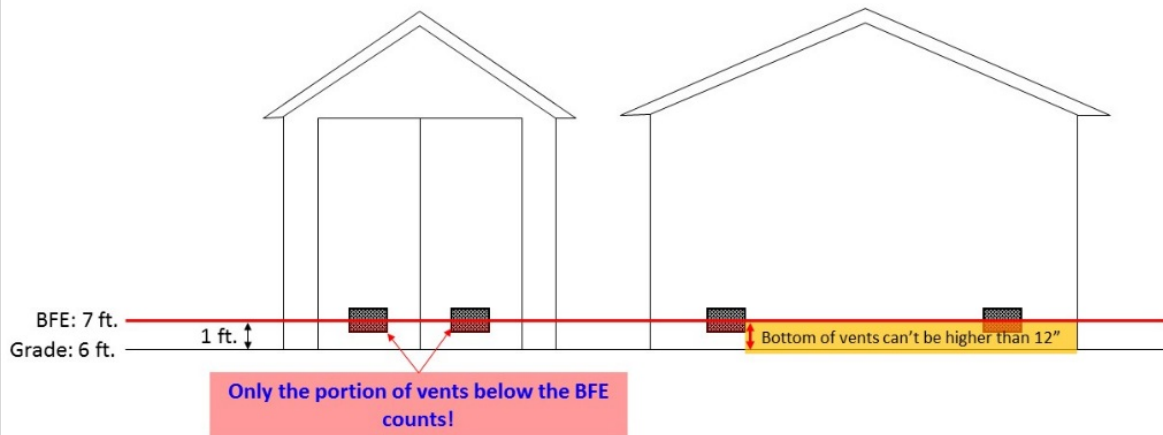
1. In order to use this method, shed cannot be over 600 sq. ft. in an A zone or 100 sq. ft. in a V zone, and must be constructed of flood-resistant materials (see Sec. 107-55 for full regs).
2. This method is not optimal for sites with little difference (<3 ft) between grade and BFE.
3. Required open area = floor area of shed, converted to inches. Ex: 200 sq. ft. shed, total open area must be 200 sq. in.



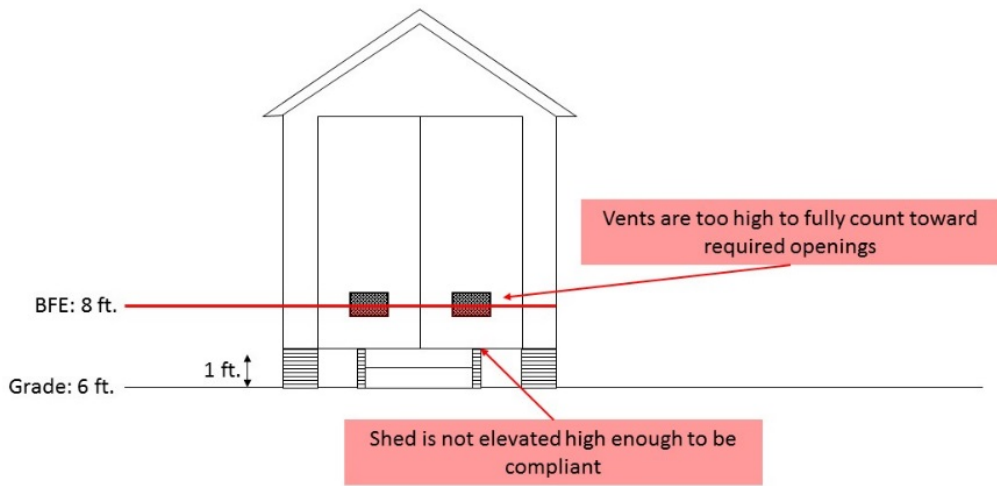
Scenario 1: Shed
Option B: Add vents to the shed –
CAUTION!

Notes:

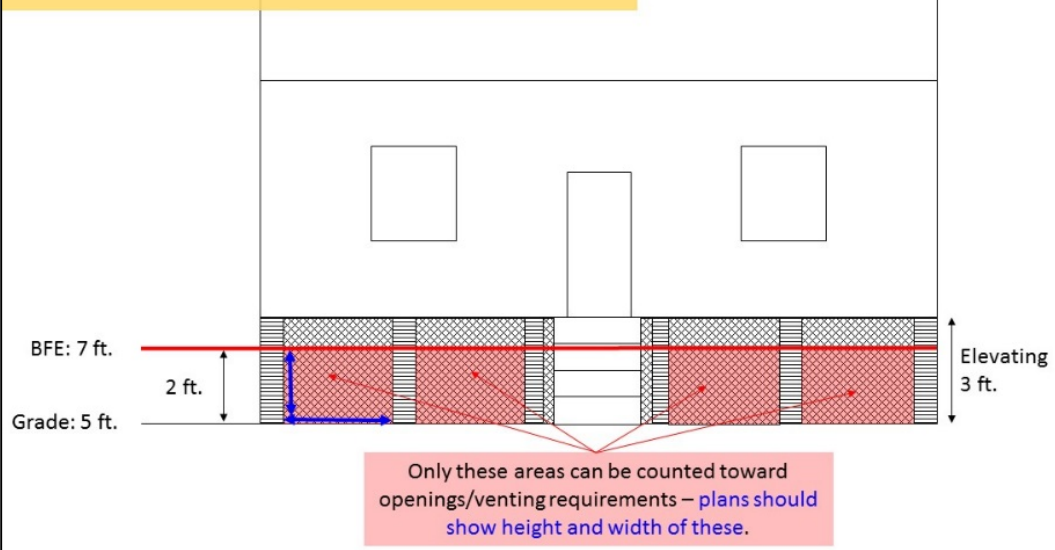
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CAUTION! DON'T DO THIS!

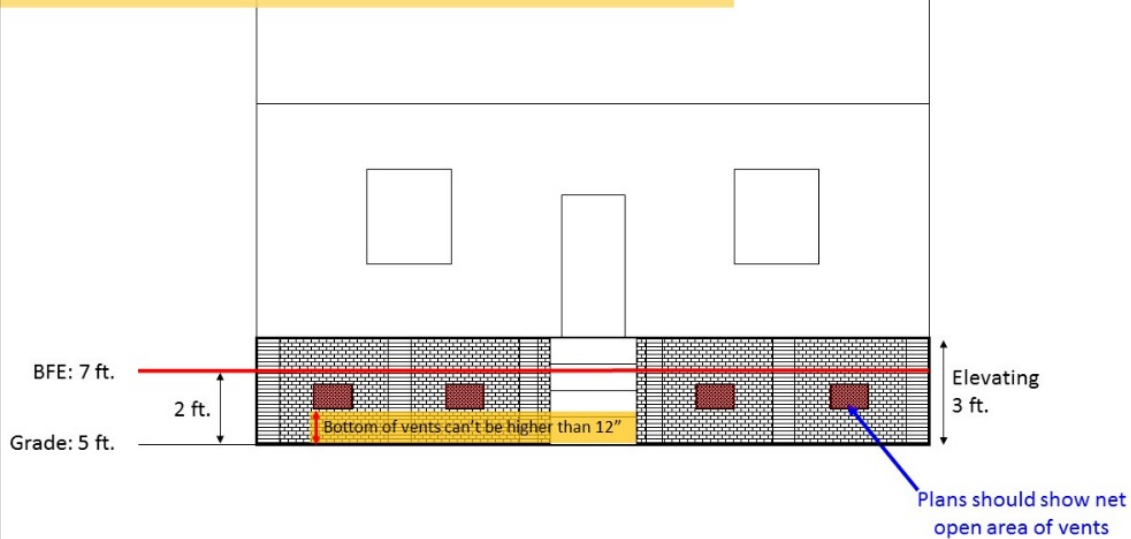


**Scenario 2: Pier-construction home
Option A: Crawlspace with lattice**



Scenario 2: Pier-construction home Option B: Enclosed crawlspace with vents

- Notes:
1. This method is not optimal for sites with little difference (<3 ft) between grade and BFE.
 2. Required open area = floor area of house, converted to inches. Ex: 1,200 sq. ft. house, total open area must be 1,200 sq. in.



Scenario 2: Pier-construction home Option B: Enclosed crawlspace with vents – **CAUTION!**

- Notes:
1. This method is not optimal for sites with little difference (<3 ft) between grade and BFE.
 2. Required open area = floor area of house, converted to inches. Ex: 1,200 sq. ft. house, total open area must be 1,200 sq. in.

