

*A department policy is based on an interpretation of a code provision  
and is subject to change based on new information.*

### **CONCRETE SLAB CONSTRUCTION**

The minimum concrete slab thickness supported directly on the earth shall not be less than 3 ½ inches. A 6-mil polyethylene vapor retarder with joints lapped not less than 6 inches shall be placed between the base course or sub grade and the concrete floor slab (CBC 1910.1).

Exception: A vapor retarder shall not be required for:

- a. Detached structures accessory to occupancies in Group R-3, such as garages, utility buildings or other similar unheated buildings.
- b. For engineered projects the Architect or Engineer of Record must indicate the required method of slab support and vapor barrier on the plans.

Earth (undisturbed soil) shall be defined as follows:

- a. Compacted soil that is determined to be acceptable for the proposed construction by an appropriately licensed professional.
- b. "Clean" crushed gravel (3/4 minus) not exceeding 18 inches in depth.
- c. Pea gravel not exceeding 36 inches in depth.