

# NAVIGATING NFBA'S WEBSITE AS A DESIGN PROFESSIONAL



Figure 1

During the last few of months, the NFBA website has been revised to better support the needs of post-frame design professionals. The NFBA homepage, available at [www.nfba.org](http://www.nfba.org), is the main initial source for post-frame building design, construction, and use. The revised opening page is shown in **Figure 1**. Links to various resources have been reorganized to provide a better browsing experience for the design professional. An effort was also made to ensure that all design and technical resources available from NFBA can be found in the reorganized and updated links. This article focuses on navigating the revised technical resources portion of the NFBA website. Hopefully the navigation and organizational revisions will provide the design professional with a better experience accessing the variety of post-frame technical resources available from NFBA. A set of general information is available for any non-member to learn about post-frame, but as the saying goes “membership has its privileges” and becoming a member of NFBA allows designers, engineers, and architects access to greater resources.



By Joseph M. Zulovich, Ph.D, P.E



Co-Authored By Daniel P. Hindman, Ph.D., P.E.

The NFBA website has information and resources for the entire post-frame building industry. For non-members, the best way to access the technical resources is by choosing the ‘Resources’ menu on the main page (**Figure 2**), and then choose ‘Technical Resources’ from the ‘Public Resources’ list. For members, you can use the Technical Resources link, but to access

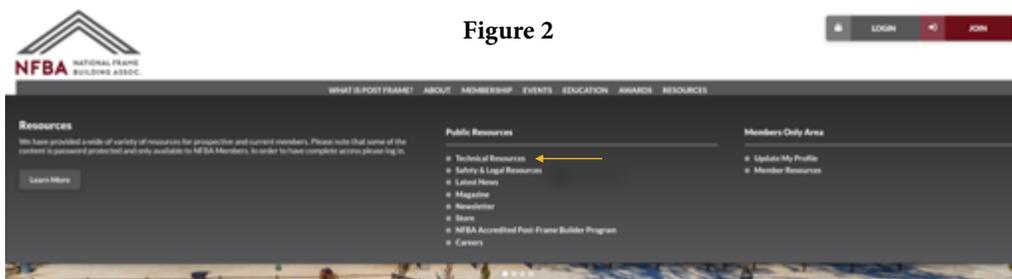


Figure 2

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Figure 3

member content, you should first log-in (Login window shown in **Figure 3**) to the NFBA website, then choose the 'Member Resources' tab on the left-hand side of the screen. The Technical tab will appear, as well as other information.

The main difference between public and members is full access for a few resources; only the entire resource is available via member access or must be purchased separately at a member price. For example, the resource link 'Codes and Standards Library' provides the library of links as seen in **Figure 4**. The same 'Codes and Standards Library' link via the public is shown in **Figure 5** asking for login information or a link to consider joining NFBA. Many of the technical resources are publicly available.

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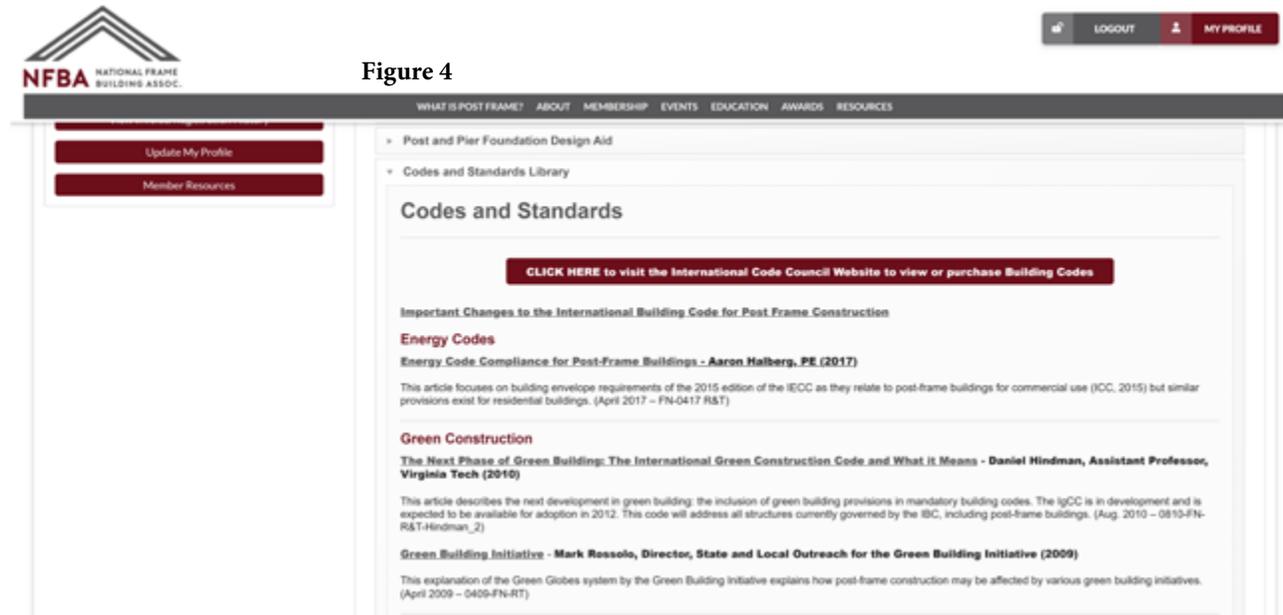


Figure 4

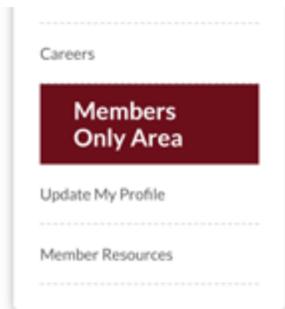
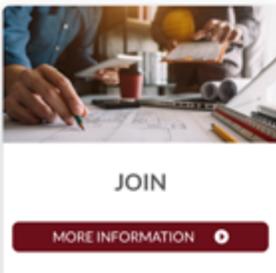
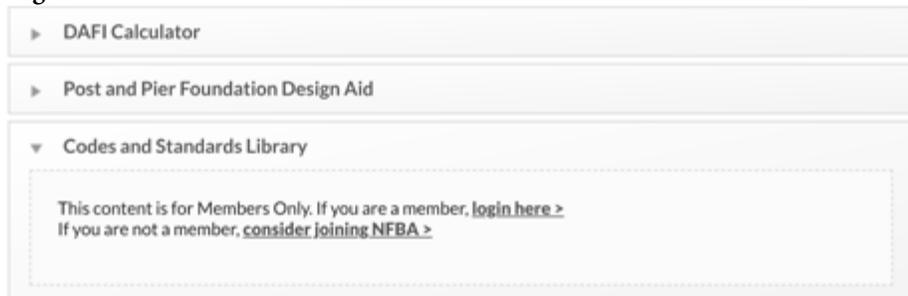


Figure 5



## Supporting Design Resources



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The Technical Resources consist of the following topics. Unless otherwise noted, all resources are available to non-members.

### Technical Resources and Articles (As seen in Figure 6a)

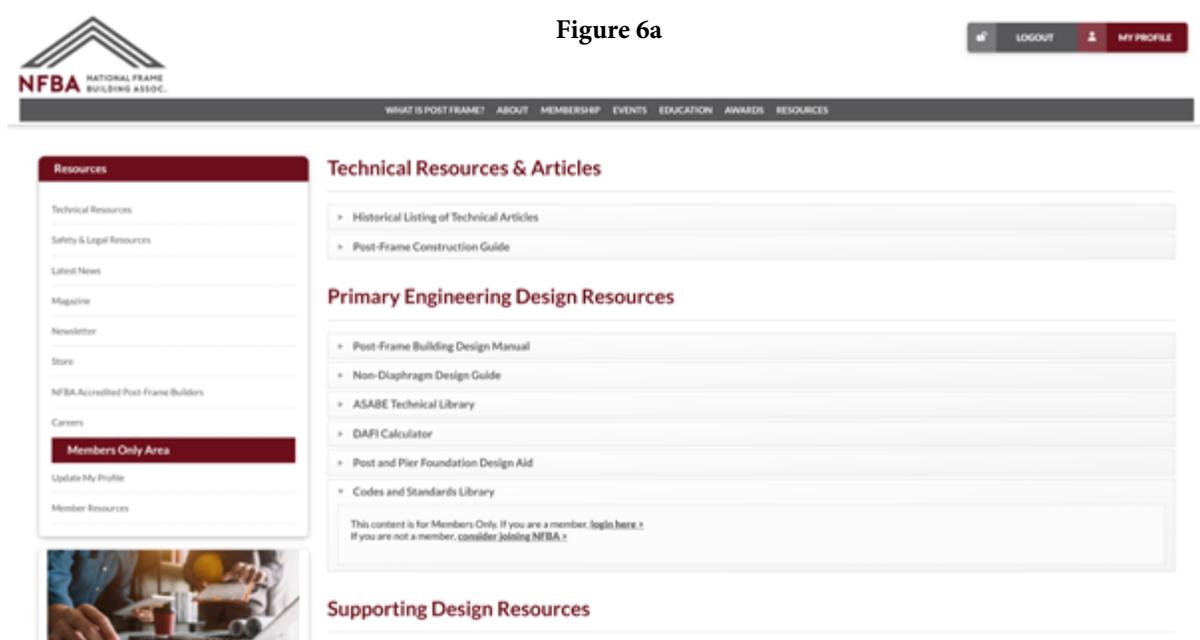


Figure 6a

- Historical Listing of Technical Articles – This is a listing of current and past Frame Building News articles published by the Technical and Research committee on various topics related to post-frame design and construction.
- Post-Frame Construction Guide – The Post-Frame Construction Guide is a great resource to learn about what post-frame is, advantages of using post-frame buildings, discussion of the building components, fire performance, code compliance and additional resources.

### Primary Engineering Design Resources (As seen in Figure 6a)

- Post-Frame Building Design Manual (Purchased Separately) – The Post Frame Building Design Manual (PFBDM) (second edition) is the most comprehensive design document for post-frame construction. The different chapters on post-frame design methods also include copious examples. Chapter 1 of the PFBDM is available for free and links are provided for purchase of the PFBDM.
- Non-Diaphragm Design Guide (Purchased Separately) – In addition to the PFBDM, the Non-Diaphragm Design Guide offers design methods and examples for non-diaphragm post-frame design. Links are provided for purchase.
- ASABE Technical Library (Members Only) – The American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) is the professional organization where technical information and standards related to post-frame design can be found. NFBA has partnered with ASABE to make post-frame standards available to members.
- DAFI Calculator – The Diaphragm and Frame Interaction (DAFI) calculator is a very helpful tool for conducting diaphragm design of post-frame structures. The DAFI Calculator as well as a technical bulletin and video recording are available for all.
- Post and Pier Foundation Design Aid – One of the aspects that makes post-frame design different than other types of construction are the attachment of posts and piers to the ground, providing moment resistance to help lessen the overall movement of the structure. Since the interaction between soil and the post/pier itself can be complicated, this section contains a Shallow Post and Pier Foundation Design Workbook in Excel, as well as a written description of the design aid, and a video explaining the design aid use.
- Codes and Standards Library (Members Only) – The Codes and Standards library contains specialty articles related

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to wood construction methods, wind and snow codes, the International Building Code (IBC), green construction and energy codes. These articles are specifically written with post-frame construction methods in mind.

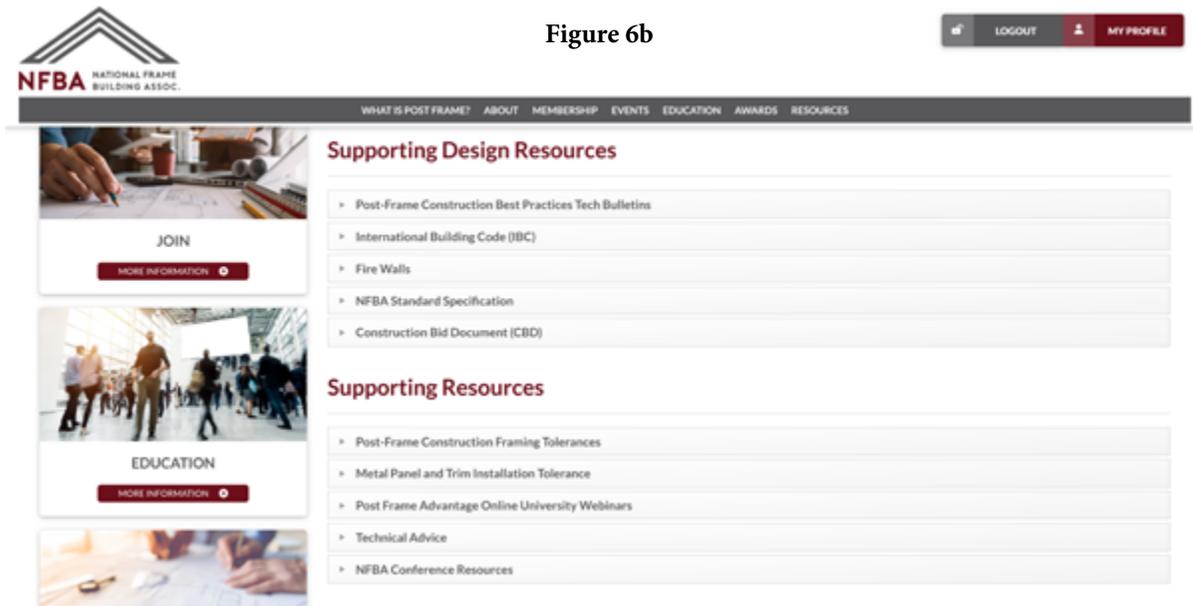


Figure 6b

**Supporting Design Resources (As seen in Figure 6b)**

- Post-Frame Construction Best Practices Tech Bulletins – This section contains short technical bulletins on a variety of important topics for post-frame design including changes to the International Building Code, corrosion, safety, and post-frame design methods.
- International Building Code (IBC) – This section provides a link to the International Building Code.
- Fire Walls – This section provides a link to the Underwriter’s Laboratory testing of a 3-hour post-frame firewall.
- NFBA Standard Specification – This is a generalized guide specification that can be adapted by builders to incorporate post-frame specifications into their project. Construction specifications are written documents to accompany construction drawings or blueprints providing more specific information about design and construction. Post-frame builders or specifiers can use this as a foundation for developing their own specific project guide.
- Construction Bid Document (CBD) (Members Only) – This section contains example construction bid documents, as well as articles related to non-structural plan reviews.

**Supporting Resources (As seen in Figure 7)**

- Post-Frame Construction and Framing Tolerances (Members Only) – Framing tolerances are an important part of meeting construction specifications and for the successful execution of any building project. This section contains framing tolerances specific to different elements of post-frame

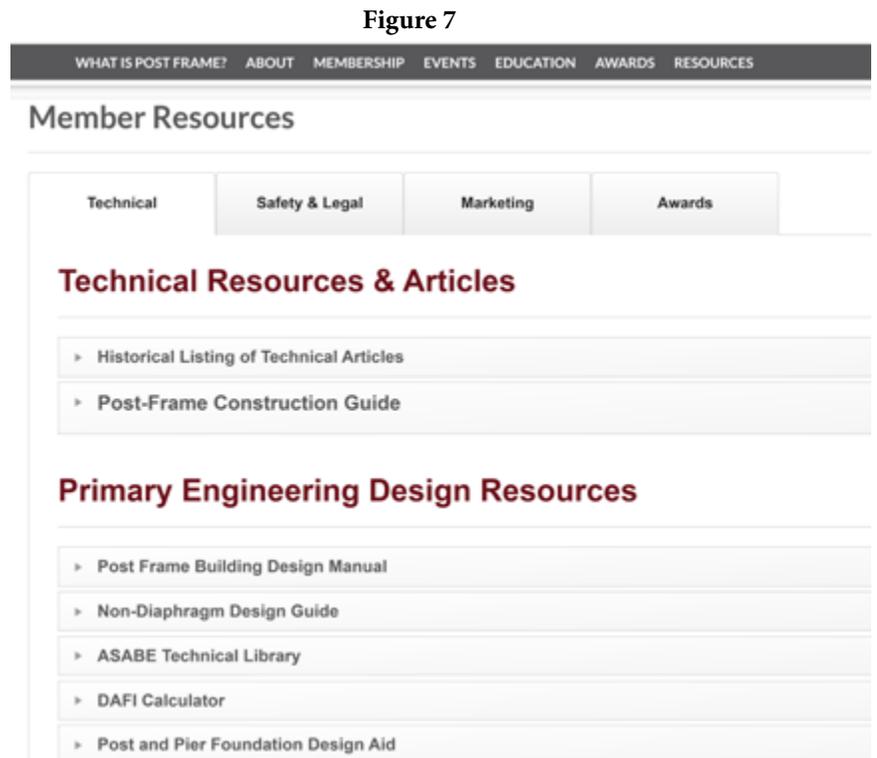


Figure 7

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buildings.

- Metal Panel and Trim Installation (Members Only) – Since post-frame buildings traditionally use corrugated steel products for the structural sheathing, tolerances for the metal panels and trim elements are important to meet construction specifications.
- Post Frame Advantage Online University Webinars – NFBA offers a series of 11 webinars focused on different aspects of the design of post-frame buildings. In this section, you can register for upcoming webinars, or view previously recorded webinars.
- Technical Advice – Technical advice for post-frame design projects is available at the email address [technical@nfba.org](mailto:technical@nfba.org).
- NFBA Conference Resources – This section will contain information about upcoming NFBA Conferences including location, content and how to register.

The above list of technical resources on the National Frame Building Association website give a comprehensive view of the different design tools, standards, construction specifications and resources needed to create post-frame buildings. While there are many resources available to the public, the members only resources and design manuals that can be purchased through NFBA provide important resources.

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