



Village of Northbrook

DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING SERVICES

Zoning Code Interpretation

Purpose:	Access to Unfinished Attics
Northbrook Zoning Code Section(s):	Article III, Single Family Residential Districts Section 12-206, Definition of Floor Area, Gross
Date:	February 27, 2016

Reason for Interpretation

A prior Zoning Code interpretation set forth limitations on what constitutes an attic.

That interpretation stated that to qualify as an unfinished attic, a series of standards must be met, including:

“Attic space may only be accessible by a pull down stair or an **access panel and not a doorway**;

Questions have arisen in determining what constitutes an appropriate access panel for an attic.

Interpretation:

- Access panels to unfinished attic space cannot be larger than 30” x 48”.
- They may be hinged and insulated.

Reviewed and Affirmed:

Thomas R Poupard, AICP
Director of Development & Planning Services