



SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE

# CALIFORNIA RESIDENTIAL CODE

2019 EDITION

**SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO  
THE CALIFORNIA RESIDENTIAL CODE  
2019 EDITION**

**International Code Council**

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# Preface

The purpose of *Significant Changes to the California Residential Code, 2019 Edition*, is to familiarize building officials, fire officials, plans examiners, inspectors, design professionals, contractors, and others in the building construction industry with many of the important changes in the 2019 *California Residential Code* (CRC). This publication is designed to assist code users in identifying the specific code changes that have occurred and understanding the reasons behind the changes. It is also a valuable resource for jurisdictions in their code-adoption process.

Only a portion of the code changes to the CRC are discussed in this book. The changes selected were identified for a number of reasons, including their frequency of application, special significance, or change in application. However, the importance of the changes not included is not to be diminished. Further information on all code changes can be found in the Complete Revision History to the 2018 I-Codes, available in 2018 from the International Code Council® (ICC®) online store <http://shop.iccsafe.org>. This code change resource provides the published documentation for each successful code change contained in the 2019 CRC.

*Significant Changes to the California Residential Code, 2019 Edition*, is organized into four parts, each representing a distinct grouping of code topics. It is arranged to follow the general layout of the CRC, including code sections and section number format. The table of contents, in addition to providing guidance in the use of this publication, allows for a quick identification of those significant code changes that occur in the 2019 CRC.

Throughout the book, changes are accompanied by a photograph or an illustration to assist and enhance the reader's understanding of the specific change. A summary and a discussion of the significance of the change are also provided. Each code change is identified by type, be it an addition, modification, clarification, or deletion.

The code change itself is presented in a legislative format similar to the style utilized for code-change proposals. Deleted code language is shown with a strikethrough, and new code text is indicated by underlining. As a result, the actual 2019 code language is provided, as well as a comparison with the 2016 language, so the user can easily determine changes to the specific code text.

As with any code-change text, *Significant Changes to the California Residential Code, 2019 Edition*, is best used as a companion to the 2019 CRC. Because only a limited discussion of each change is provided, the code itself should always be referenced in order to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the code change and its application.

The commentary and opinions set forth in this text are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of ICC. In addition, they may not represent the views of any enforcing agency, as such agencies have the sole authority to render interpretations of the CRC. In many cases, the explanatory material is derived from the reasoning expressed by code-change proponents.

Comments concerning this publication are encouraged and may be directed to ICC at [significantchanges@iccsafe.org](mailto:significantchanges@iccsafe.org).

## About the California Residential Code

Building Officials, design professionals, contractors and others involved in the field of residential building construction recognize the need for a modern, up-to-date residential code addressing the design and installation of building systems through both prescriptive and performance requirements. The *California Residential Code* (CRC), 2019 Edition, is intended to meet these needs through the use of model codes that safeguard the public health and safety in all communities, large and small. The 2019 CRC utilizes the 2018 IRC as its basis and is kept up to date through California's code adoption process. The effective date of the 2019 CRC is January 2020.

The *California Residential Code* is Part 2.5 of thirteen parts of the official triennial compilation and publication of the adoptions, amendments and repeal of administrative regulations to *California Code of Regulations, Title 24*, also referred to as the *California Building Standards Code*. This comprehensive residential building code establishes minimum regulations that is founded on broad-based principles that make possible the use of new building materials and new building designs. The *California Building Standards Code* is published in its entirety every three years. The California Building Standards Commission is responsible for the administration of each code adoption cycle. Supplements and errata are issued throughout the three year cycle.

The CRC is applicable throughout the state. However, a city, county, or city and county may establish more restrictive building standards reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geological or topographical conditions. Findings of the local condition(s) and the adopted local building standard(s) must generally be filed with the California Building Standards Commission (or other filing if required) to become effective. Only the state's significant change amendments are included as part of this publication.



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