Significant Changes to the
California Residential Code
2022 Edition

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Preface

The purpose of Significant Changes to the California Residential Code, 2022 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 2022 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 2021 I-Codes, available from the International Code Council® (ICC®) online store. This resource provides the published documentation for each successful code change contained in the 2021 IRC since the 2018 edition of IRC, which is the base model code for the CRC.

Significant Changes to the California Residential Code, 2022 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 2022 CRC.

Throughout the book, each change is accompanied by a photograph, an application example 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 2022 code language is provided, as well as
a comparison with the 2019 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, 2022 Edition, is best used as a companion to the 2022 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.

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 2022 California Residential Code (CRC), is intended to meet these needs through code regulations that safeguard the public health and safety in all communities, large and small. The 2022 CRC utilizes the 2021 International Residential Code® (IRC®) as its basis and is kept up to date through California’s code adoption process. The effective date of the 2022 CRC is January 1, 2023.

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 the California Code of Regulations, Title 24, also referred to as the California Building Standards Code. This comprehensive residential code establishes minimum regulations for residential building systems by means of prescriptive- and performance-related provisions. It is founded on broad-based principles that make possible the use of new materials and new building designs. The California Building Standards Code is published in its entirety every 3 years. The California Building Standards Commission is responsible for the administration of each code adoption cycle. Supplements and errata are issued throughout the 3-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) amendments must be filed with the California Building Standards Commission to become effective. Only the state’s significant change amendments are included as part of this publication.
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About California Building Officials

California Building Officials (CALBO) is a non-profit corporation dedicated to promoting public health and safety in building construction through responsible legislation, education and building code development. CALBO was founded in 1962 to promote and further the profession of the local California Building Official. With time and achievement, the organization has become the advocate and representative of not only the local California Building Official, but of local building departments, local government entities, and public safety and code enforcement officials.

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