

**Significant Changes to the
California Residential Code,
2025 Edition: Based on the 2025
California Residential Code**

**Brad Wungluck, MPA, MCP, CBO
Sandra Hyde, PE**

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Preface

The purpose of *Significant Changes to the California Residential Code, 2025 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 2025 *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 changes to the International Codes can be found in the *Revision History to the 2024 I-Codes: Successful Changes and Public Comments*, available from the International Code Council® (ICC®) online store. This resource provides the published documentation for each successful code change contained in the 2024 IRC, which is the base code for the 2025 CRC, since the 2022 edition.

Significant Changes to the California Residential Code, 2025 Edition, is organized into five 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 2025 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 strike-through, and new code text is indicated by underlining. As a result, the actual 2025 code language is provided, as well as a comparison with the 2022 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, 2025 Edition*, is best used as a companion to the 2025 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.

At the end of the book is a table summarizing the code changes that affect each section in the *Significant Changes to the California Residential Code*. The table allows quick reference to all code changes that affect a single section. More information about the original proposals, committee modifications or public comment modifications is available on the ICC website by searching for the code change number. Note also that Digital Codes Premium subscribers have direct access to this information plus hearing videos via Digital Codes Premium.

The commentary and opinions set forth in this text are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of ICC or CALBO. 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 2025 *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 2025 CRC utilizes the 2024 *International Residential Code*® (IRC®) as its basis and is kept up to date through California's code adoption process. The effective date of the 2025 CRC is January 1, 2026.

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 the Authors

Brad Wungluck, MPA, MCP, CBO

California Building Officials

Director of Development Services, City of Manteca

With more than 15 years of building safety management experience, Brad is a Past President of California Building Officials (CALBO) and currently serves on multiple committees for the organization. In addition, he teaches regularly for CALBO, has developed a number of CALBO training courses, and serves on the committee responsible for all training and education, the CALBO Training Institute.

In addition, Brad serves the City of Manteca as Director of Development Services and is responsible for all Building Safety, Planning, and Economic Development functions. Serving as the Chief Building Official for the City, he manages building plan review, counter assistance and inspection services.

Brad earned his BS in Political Science from Loyola University Chicago and his Masters in Public Administration from San Diego State University. Brad has participated on various local, state-wide and national committees, including the California Building Standards Code Advisory Committees on Accessibility; California Building Standards Code Advisory Committee on Plumbing, Electrical, Mechanical and Energy; the CALBO State Code Committee; the CALBO Energy Committee; and the ICC Plumbing, Mechanical and Fuel Gas Code Action Committee.

Brad is also a certified Master Code Professional, Building Official and Plans Examiner, holding certifications in several inspection categories.

Sandra Hyde, PE

International Code Council

Managing Director of Product Development

Sandra Hyde is Managing Director of Product Development with the International Code Council (ICC), where she develops technical resource materials in support of the structural provisions of the International Residential, Building and Existing Building Codes. Her role also includes review and technical editing of publications authored by ICC and engineering associations, and the presentation of technical seminars on the IRC, IEBC and IBC structural provisions. She has authored and

reviewed support publications, including *Significant Changes to the International Building Code*, *Special Inspection Manual*, and, in conjunction with APA, *Guide to the IRC Wall Bracing Provisions*. Prior to joining ICC in 2010, Sandra worked in manufacturing and research of engineered wood products. She is a Registered Civil Engineer in Idaho and California.

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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Headquarters

200 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 250
Washington, DC 20001
888-ICC-SAFE (888-422-7233)
www.iccsafe.org

Eastern Regional Office

900 Montclair Road
Birmingham, AL 35213

Central Regional Office

4051 Flossmoor Road
Country Club Hills, IL 60478

Western Regional Office

3060 Saturn Street, Suite 100
Brea, CA 92821

MENA Regional Office

Dubai Association Centre Offices, One Central
Building 2, Office 8, Dubai World Trade Centre Complex
PO Box 9292, Dubai, UAE

OCEANIA Regional Office

Level 9, Nishi Building
2 Philip Law Street
Canberra ACT 2601 Australia

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