

North Carolina State Building Code:
Administrative Code and Policies, 2024 edition

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PREFACE of the 2024 NORTH CAROLINA STATE BUILDING CODE

North Carolina has been a pioneer in the field of Statewide Building Regulations that have been enacted for the protection of the public. The Building Laws passed in 1903 and 1905 created a State Building Code for materials and methods of construction in use at that time in the State.

The General Assembly of 1933 created a Building Code Council and authorized it to, in cooperation with the Commissioner of Insurance, prepare and adopt a State Building Code. The first State Building Code was adopted in 1935 and ratified by the 1941 General Assembly.

The 1957 Legislature rewrote the 1933 Act, ratified the 1953 Edition, and reorganized and expanded the membership and responsibility of the Council. The 1953 Edition of the State Building Code was revised in accordance with the 1957 Act and printed as the 1958 Edition.

The 1933 Act of the General Assembly provided that any city or county could adopt any building regulation that was more stringent than the State Building Code regulations. However, after a General Assembly Study Commission Report, the 1957 Legislature provided that any local building regulation that was different from the State regulation would have to be approved by the Building Code Council. The Council adopted a policy to only approve local amendments to the State Building Code that were absolutely necessary. The policy includes that when the Council sees the need for local amendments, they would be incorporated as a part of the State Building Code in lieu of approving the regulations applying to a specific city or county unless local conditions warranted such specific regulations.

The 1967 Edition of the State Building Code was prepared utilizing the framework of the Standard Building Code, with several chapters taken from the American Insurance Association's National Building Code and the egress chapter taken from the Life Safety Code of NFPA.

The 1978, 1991 and 1996 Editions were prepared by the Building Code Council with the assistance of specially appointed Advisory and Ad-Hoc Committees representing Code Enforcement Officials, Contractors, Designers, and others affected by the regulations. These Editions were the latest Standard Building Code with North Carolina amendments.

The 2002, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2018 and 2024 Editions were prepared by Ad-Hoc Committees representing Code Enforcement Officials, Contractors, Designers, and others affected by the regulations. These Editions were the *International Building Code* with North Carolina amendments.

The 2024 North Carolina State Building Code is presented with the hope that its use will protect the public from dangerous and unsanitary buildings. This Code is intended to provide Code Enforcement Officials, Contractors and Designers a set of minimum standards to follow in design and construction. The Building Code Council has the authority to amend the Code when the wider use of materials and methods comply with the safety standards set forth in the laws.

PREFACE of the 2024 NORTH CAROLINA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE and POLICIES

The purpose of the *North Carolina State Building Code: North Carolina Administrative Code and Policies* is to serve as a comprehensive document to guide decisions aimed at protecting the public’s health, safety, and welfare in the built environment. This protection is provided through the enforcement, by state and local governments, of the technical codes incorporated by reference herein.

The *North Carolina State Building Code: North Carolina Administrative Code* was first adopted by the Building Council in 1991. The 1996 and 2002 Editions were published in conjunction with the subsequent Code Editions. The 2006 *North Carolina Administrative Code and Policies* was a reorganization and rewrite of the 2002 *Administration and Enforcements Code*. The 2009, 2012, 2018 and 2024 Edition of the *North Carolina Administrative Code and Policies* is an administrative update of the 2006 *Administration and Enforcements Code*. Chapter 1, Administrative Code, contains Rules adopted by the Building Code Council and approved by the Rules Review Commission. Chapter 2, Policies, contains generally accepted policies and procedures based on the North Carolina General Statutes (N.C.G.S.). Chapter 3, Referenced Statutes, contains references to many applicable General Statutes. The appendices include representative administrative forms.

EDITIONS of the NORTH CAROLINA STATE BUILDING CODE

Administrative	1991, 1996, 2002, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2018, 2024
Building	1936, 1953, 1958, 1967, 1978, 1991, 1996, 2002, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2018, 2024
Residential	1968, 1993, 1997, 2002, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2018, 2024
Accessibility	1973, 1991, 1999
(Accessibility requirements were part of the Building Code before 9/1/1973 and after 1/1/2009.)	
Electrical (NEC)	1931, 1933, 1935, 1937, 1940, 1942, 1943, 1947, 1949, 1951, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1962, 1965, 1968, 1971, 1975, 1978, 1981, 1984, 1987, 1990, 1993, 1996, 1999, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2011, 2014, 2017, 2020, 2023
Existing Building	2015, 2018, 2024
Fire	1991, 1996, 2002, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2018, 2024
Mechanical	1971, 1980, 1991, 1996, 2002, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2018, 2024
Energy Conservation	1991, 1996, 2002, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2018, 2024
Plumbing	1963, 1968, 1980, 1991, 1996, 2002, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2018, 2024
Fuel Gas	1991, 1996, 2002, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2018, 2024

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