

**Significant Changes to the
International Residential Code®**

2024 Edition

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Preface

The purpose of *Significant Changes to the International Residential Code*[®], 2024 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 2024 *International Residential Code*[®] (IRC[®]). 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 IRC 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 *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 since the 2021 edition.

Significant Changes to the International Residential Code, 2024 Edition, is organized into nine parts, each representing a distinct grouping of code topics. It is arranged to follow the general layout of the IRC, 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 2024 IRC.

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 2024 code language is provided, as well as a comparison with the 2021 language, so the user can easily determine changes to the specific code text.

As with any code-change text, *Significant Changes to the International Residential Code*, 2024 Edition, is best used as a companion to the 2024 IRC.

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 International 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. In addition, they may not represent the views of any enforcing agency, as such agencies have the sole authority to render interpretations of the IRC. 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 *International 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 *International Residential Code*® (IRC), 2024 Edition, is intended to meet these needs through model code regulations that safeguard the public health and safety in all communities, large and small. The IRC is kept up to date through ICC's open code-development process. The provisions of the 2021 edition, along with those code changes approved in the most recent code development cycle, make up the 2024 edition.

As part of the ICC's ongoing effort to make the codes easier to read in paper and digitally, as well as an effort to give readers more information, print and digital versions of the IRC will look dramatically different in the 2024 cycle. This is the biggest change in the format of the I-Codes in 25 years.

The style and formatting changes implemented in the print version of the 2024 I-Codes aim to create a consistent experience with enhanced access to information. The changes, promoting a cleaner, more modern look and enhancing readability include:

- Switching from double to single-column text
- Streamlined lists
- Shading added to table headers and notes
- Modernized font styles
- Consistent grouping of associated content
- Addition of QR codes to access information on changes to text

Tables have consistently been an issue in the organization of a code book. The movement of tables to the end of a chapter has been unpopular while placing full page tables into an available space can place the table pages behind the section referencing it. The new single column format allows a table to be located immediately after the code section. The solution for Digital Codes Premium is to use a link

in the section to reference the table. Simply click the link and go directly to the table. Switch back and forth between table and section as needed.

For printed versions of the code, links to tables and information about how code text has changed is not as easy to show. To give useful information about how the code text changed, a QR code is placed at each section of the IRC in place of previous marginal markings. If there is no QR code, there are no technical changes to that section. Click on the QR code using a phone or tablet camera or click on the QR code on a computer to access information that was previously only available in the *Complete Revision History* or Digital Codes Premium. Clicking on the QR code sends you directly to the digital version of the code change, which uses blue text to show the changes to the code text.

The IRC is one in a family of 15 International Codes® (I-Codes®) published by ICC. 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 IRC is a comprehensive code containing provisions for building, energy conservation, mechanical, fuel gas, plumbing and electrical systems. The IRC is available for adoption and use by jurisdictions internationally. Its use within a governmental jurisdiction is intended to be accomplished through adoption by reference, in accordance with proceedings established by the jurisdiction's laws.

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The authors would also like to acknowledge grateful appreciation to Margaret E. Knapp, Electrical Inspector for the Augusta Planning & Development Department, for thorough review of the electrical section of *Significant Changes to the International Residential Code*. Buddy Showalter, Senior Staff Engineer for the International Code Council, has done yet another extensive review of the structural section of this book earning our appreciation as well.

About the International Code Council®

The International Code Council is the leading global source of model codes and standards and building safety solutions that include product evaluation, accreditation, technology, codification, consulting, training and certification. The International Code Council's codes, standards and solutions are used to ensure safe, affordable and sustainable communities and buildings worldwide.

The International Code Council family of solutions includes the ICC Evaluation Service (ICC ES), S. K. Ghosh Associates, the International Accreditation Service (IAS), General Code, ICC NTA, ICC Community Development Solutions, Alliance for National & Community Resilience (ANCR) and American Legal Publishing.

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