

ARE YOU READY? 2012 REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION

**1. BUILDINGS NEED TO BE MORE
ENERGY EFFICIENT**

2. YOU NEED AN OCCUPANCY PERMIT

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

If you apply for a building permit on or after January 1, 2012, the proposed construction must comply with enhanced energy efficiency requirements of Ontario's Building Code.

The 2006 Ontario Building Code set out a "roadmap" for energy efficiency to be implemented from January 1, 2006 through to December 31, 2011. As part of that roadmap, the Code set out energy efficiency benchmarks for houses and for large buildings. Subsequent Code amendments provided additional compliance paths that are consistent with those benchmarks.

These are not exactly new changes – they have been in the Code since 2006. Until now, they have not been mandatory but on January 1, 2012, they will be.

Energy Efficiency Requirements are found in Part 12, "Resource Conservation" under Division B of the Building Code

Energy Efficiency in Houses

and other Part 9 residential buildings intended for occupancy on a continuing basis during the winter months

If you apply for a permit to build a house on or after January 1, 2012, the permit will have to comply with the energy efficiency performance level that is equal to a rating of 80 or more when evaluated in accordance with EnerGuide* (based on the Hot 2000 V9.34c1,2 software program) or conform to the Supplementary Standard SB-12, which is referenced in the Building Code. The alternative compliance paths set out in this Supplementary Standard were referenced in an amendment to the Building Code which came into force on January 1, 2010. It was amended in December 2011. You can find the SB-12 at <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page8446.aspx>

Energy Efficiency in Large Buildings

Buildings other than houses must conform to Supplementary Standard SB-10 (July 1, 2011 update), which is referenced in the Building Code. This Supplementary Standard indicates that the energy efficiency of these buildings shall be at least 25% greater than the energy efficiency levels attained by conforming to the 1997 Model National Energy Code for Buildings, but provides additional compliance paths to achieve them. The updated Supplementary Standard SB-10 was referenced in an amendment to the Building Code which came into force on July 1, 2011. For more information about the updated Supplementary Standard SB-10, follow the link to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing's Building Code website at <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page9528.aspx>



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Find out more:

These energy efficiency enhancements may mean that you need to change the way you design or build houses.

If you haven't done so already, you may wish to participate in technical training courses on the Building Code's energy efficiency requirements developed by MMAH and offered by stakeholder organizations and community colleges. For more information follow the link to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing's Building Code website at <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page8526.aspx>. The MMAH Building Code website will soon have a presentation available, with audio, explaining how to use the Supplementary Standards.

Training may also be offered by professional and building sector organizations. For example, the Ontario Home Builders Association can help builders to find out about training opportunities. For more information follow the link to the Ontario Home Builders' Association website at <http://ohba.ca/>. The Ontario Building Officials' Association offers training opportunities, too. The link to their training information is: <http://www.oboa.on.ca/cgi-bin/news2/#a41>.

OCCUPANCY PERMITS

Amendments to the Building Code which come into force on January 1, 2012 will require an inspection to be made and an Occupancy Permit to be issued, prior to people occupying certain new residential buildings. You need to comply with these occupancy permit requirements if you apply for a permit on or after January 1, 2012.

The occupancy permit requirements will apply to buildings intended for residential occupancy that are: three or fewer stories in building height and have a building area not exceeding 600 square metres; have no accommodation for tourists; do not have a dwelling unit above another dwelling unit; and do not have any dwelling units sharing a common means of egress. The buildings covered by the new requirements will include detached houses, semi-detached houses and townhouses.

These requirements will not apply to existing buildings, or parts of existing buildings, that have been subject to renovation, including an extension to the building, a material alteration or repair.

Compared to current requirements for residential occupancy, the amendments to the Code expand the range of building components that must be provided, operational, complete, or substantially complete, as the case may be before an occupancy permit can be issued

OCCUPANCY PERMITS ... continued

After the building permit applicant has notified the Chief Building Official (CBO) that the building is ready for an Occupancy Permit inspection, and the building passes the Occupancy Permit inspection, the CBO or designate, shall issue the Occupancy Permit.

In addition, the CBO may note certain incomplete items that do not prevent issuance of an occupancy permit, but that require further inspection(s) subject to additional notices as prescribed by the municipal bylaw.

The Occupancy Permit inspection must be completed within 2 days after receipt of notification. The Occupancy Permit would be issued as soon as possible after the building passes the Occupancy Permit inspection, in accordance with policies set by the municipality.

Occupancy Permit Requirements are referenced in Part 1, 1.3.3.4 under Division C of the Building Code.

Next Edition of the Building Code

The development of the next edition of the Building Code continues. Although its release has been delayed, the timing and development of the next edition does not affect the timing of the energy efficiency and occupancy permit provisions of the 2006 Building Code described above, which will take effect on January 1, 2012.