

2009 RESIDENTIAL CODE CHANGES

Effective December 31, 2009

THIS IS NOT THE COMPLETE CODE; THIS IS ONLY A SUMMARY OF THE CHANGES

The code sections can be found in the 2009 International Residential Code and the 2009 Pennsylvania Alternative Residential Energy Provisions.

1. Automatic sprinkler systems shall be installed in townhouses in accordance with P2904 or NFPA 13D (2007)
2. Effective January 1, 2011, automatic sprinkler systems shall be installed in one- and two-family dwellings in accordance with P2904 or NFPA 13D (2007)
3. Type of doors between the garage and the living space, R302.5.1
4. Garage shall be provided with a fire separation from the living areas, table R302.6.; see table R702.3.5 for gypsum board fasteners, also see footnote ‘e’
5. Enclosed space under stairs shall be enclosed with ½ inch gypsum board, R302.7
6. All interior finishes and trim shall comply with section R302.9
7. For areas required to be fireblocked, see section R302.11; see section 302.11.1 for acceptable fireblocking material
8. All stairs shall be illuminated, R303.6
9. Provide tempered glass for all windows in hazardous locations, R308.3; take note of the two tables and two different test standards
10. Habitable attics, basements, and every sleeping room require one code-compliant emergency escape and rescue opening (egress window or door), R310
11. A landing is required outside all exterior doors; for other than the main entrance, a landing is not required if the distance from the door threshold to finished grade is equal to or less than 16½ inches and the door does not swing over the steps, R311.3; see section 311.5 for landing and stair construction
12. Open stair risers are not permitted; also, take note of step nosing requirements, 311.7.4.3
13. Doors may not swing over a step or a stair, R311.3.2 and R311.7.5
14. Handrails are required to be continuous from the bottom riser to the top riser; all handrails shall be returned, terminate to a newel post, or safety terminals, R311.7.7.2
15. Handrail grip size shall comply with R311.7.7.3 for all interior and exterior stairs
16. Smoke detectors shall be installed on each level, in each sleeping room, and outside each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms, R314.3; smoke detectors shall be hard wired, interconnected with battery backup, R314.4; smoke detectors shall be listed in accordance with UL217, R314.1
17. Carbon monoxide alarms shall be installed outside each sleeping area in the immediate vicinity, R315

18. The flammability of insulation and facing shall comply with R302.1.0 and R316
19. Wood/Plastic composites shall be labeled and manufactured in accordance with ASTM D 7032, R317.4
20. The address numbers shall be 4 inches high with ½ inch stroke width, visible from the street, and the numbers shall contrast with their background, R319.1
21. Monolithic slab footings require rebar, see section R403.1.3.2.
22. Foundation anchor bolts are required to be within 12 inches from the end of each sill plate and not less than 7 bolt diameters from the end of the sill plate (7 x ½" = 3½" and 7 x ⅝" = 4⅜"), R403.1.6
23. Horizontal rebar is required in all foundations, see section R404.1.2.2 and table 404.1.2(1)
24. The code has a requirement for the concrete slump, R404.1.2.3.4
25. Decks shall be anchored to the house in accordance with section R502.2.2
26. A 6-mil vapor barrier is required under the garage and basement slab, R506.2.3
27. A fastener schedule for all structural members can be found in table 602.3(1)
28. Braced wall lines and garage door openings shall be constructed in accordance with section R602.10
29. The use of water-resistant gypsum board shall comply with section R702.3.8
30. Exterior wall coverings shall provide a water-resistant and wind-resistant barrier, R703.1
31. All walls shall be flashed per section R703.8
32. Roof ventilation shall comply with section R806
33. Attic access is required to be located in the hallway or a readily accessible location, R807.1; see definitions for 'accessible, readily', R202
34. The installation of asphalt shingles for roof covering shall comply with section R905.2.4
35. Provide listing and labeling information for manufactured fireplaces, R1005 and 02435.1
36. For the final inspection, an energy certificate of installation is required to be placed on or near the electrical panel, N1101.9 or PA113
37. All attic access doors, hatches, or any other door in the thermal envelope leading outside of the thermal envelope shall be insulated and weather stripped, N1102.2.3 or PA302.3
38. Provide caulk, gasket, or other sealing method with an air barrier material, suitable film or solid material to prevent air leakage, N1102.4.1 or PA304; see definition of air barrier, R202
 - a. The space between a window or door and the framing may no longer be filled with fiberglass; the material must comply with section N1102.4.1 or PA304
 - b. An air barrier is required where the installation of tub, shower, manufactured fireplaces, framed soffits, or similar installations are located on a wall or ceiling of the thermal envelope
39. Air tightness of the building envelope is required to be verified by one of the following options:
 - a. Test option, N1102.4.2.1 or PA304.2.1
 - b. Visual inspection, N1102.4.2 or PA304.2.2

40. New wood-burning fireplaces are required to be provided with gasket doors and outside combustion air, N1102.4.3 or PA 304.3
41. Windows and doors with glass shall be listed and labeled to prove compliance with the air leakage requirements, N1102.2.4.4 or PA304.4
42. Recessed lights in the thermal envelope shall comply with ASTM E283 to prevent air movement, N1102.4.5 or PA304.5
43. Forced-air furnaces shall be provided with a programmable thermostat, N1103.1.1 or PA401.1
44. Supply air ducts in attics are required to be insulated with an R-8; all other ducts shall be insulated with an R-6, N1103.2.1 or PA402.1; the exception is for ducts completely inside the thermal envelope
45. Duct tightness shall be verified for any part of the system located outside of the thermal envelope by either of the following options: (a) post-construction test or (b) rough-in test, N1103.2.2 or PA402.2
46. A minimum of 50% of the lamps in the permanently installed lighting fixtures shall be high-efficiency lamps, N1104.1 or PA501
47. Heating and cooling equipment shall be sized in accordance with Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA) manual J (2002) and manual S (2004), M1401.3
48. Dryer ducts shall terminate not less than 3 feet in any direction from any openings into the building, M1502.3
49. Dryer duct material is required to be metal, minimum .016 inch thick, MI502.4.1
50. Dryer ducts shall be supported and secured at 4-foot intervals, MI502.4.2
51. The transition duct behind the dryer shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 2158A, M1502.4.3
52. Dryer duct length shall comply with section MI502.4.4
53. Dryer ducts that are concealed in the building construction shall be provided with a permanent label or tag indicating the equivalent length of the duct; the label or tag shall be located within 6 feet of the exhaust duct connection, M1502.4.5
54. Nail plates are required to protect the dryer duct through the top and bottom wall plates; the nail plates shall extend 2 inches above the bottom plate and below the top plate, M1502.5
55. Range exhaust hoods with a CFM greater than 400 shall be provided with make-up air at approximately the same rate, M1503.4
56. Whirlpool bath tub motors shall be provided with an access of 12 inches by 12 inches; where the equipment is greater than 2 feet from the opening, the access must be 18 inches by 18 inches; the access shall be unobstructed and a size necessary to remove and replace the circulation pumps, P2720.1
57. Ground rods for the electrical service shall have a minimum diameter of $\frac{5}{8}$ inch and length of 8 feet; or, if the diameter is less than $\frac{5}{8}$ inch and not less than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, the rod must be listed; provide 2 rods 6 feet apart or provide a test and report for a single rod to indicate that the ohms are less than 25, E3608.1.4, E3608.1.4.1, E3608.3, and E3608.4

58. An intersystem bonding terminal is required to be installed by or on the electrical meter base; the terminal shall be listed and labeled for exterior installation; the terminal is for grounding the TV cable, phone, and/or satellite systems, E3609.3
59. Nonmetallic sheathed cable (Romex) installed in an unfinished basement exposed on the foundation walls must be protected from physical damage by listed conduit or other approved means, E3802.4
60. All receptacles in garages, unfinished basements, and similar areas shall be protected by a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI); the only exception is for fire and burglar alarm systems, E3902.2 and E3902.4
61. Electrically heated floors in bathrooms, and hydro massage bathtubs, spa and hot tub locations shall be protected with a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI), E3902.1 0
62. All circuits 120 volts, 15 and 20 amps installed in family rooms, dining rooms, living rooms, parlors, libraries, dens, bedrooms, sunrooms, recreation rooms, closets, hallways, and similar rooms or areas shall be protected by a combination type arc fault interrupter, E3902.11
63. Receptacles, non-locking type, 120 to 240 volts 15 to 20 amps, located in damp and wet locations shall be listed weather-resistant type, E4002.8 and E4002.9
64. All receptacles 120 volts 15 to 20 amps shall be listed tamper resistant type, E4002.14