

# STATE BUILDING CODE

## Chapter 19.27 RCW

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The State Building Code (Code) is a set of national model codes and standards, adopted into state law by reference, that regulate the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or repair of residential, commercial, and industrial buildings and structures throughout the state.

The Code currently includes the following model codes: the International Building Code; the International Residential Code; the International Mechanical Code; the International Fire Code; the Uniform Plumbing Code, but not those provisions relating to fuel gas piping; the State Energy Code; the State Ventilation and Indoor Air Quality Code; and certain provisions of the National Fuel Gas Code.

The minimum standards and requirements of the Code are applicable in all cities and counties. A local government may enact a provision different from the Code as long as it does not fall below minimum standards. Local jurisdictions are responsible for enforcing the Code.

### **State Building Code Council**

The State Building Code Council (Council) was created to provide analysis and advice on Code issues. The Council also establishes the minimum code requirements by reviewing, developing, and modifying the code provisions on a three-year cycle. The Council is comprised of fifteen members, including local government officials and representatives of: design professionals (architects and engineers), the construction industry, the general public, and people with disabilities.

### **Electrical Code**

Requirements for electrical work are found in statute and in rules adopted by the Department of Labor and Industries (Department). Every year, the Department is required to obtain the latest version of the National Electrical Code and, after receiving recommendations from the Electrical Board, adopt rules in furtherance of safety to life and property. The electrical code is enforced either by the Department or by city electrical inspectors if the job site is within certain cities' limits.