



Why adopt current building codes?

Building codes protect public health, decrease the costs of construction, provide consistent minimum standards for contractors and design professionals, and contribute to local economies by maintaining property values and decreasing energy consumption. Building codes also provide local governments with an opportunity to develop strong relationships with local business leaders, developers and community interests.

Often municipalities adopt a model code, and then use local authority to amend that code to tailor the building code to the jurisdiction's particular needs. Most U.S. cities, counties and states choose the International Codes, building safety codes developed by the International Code Council (ICC). The International Code Council is a membership association dedicated to building safety, fire prevention and energy efficiency, develops the codes used to construct residential and commercial buildings, including homes and schools. The International Codes also serve as the basis for construction of federal properties around the world, and as a reference for many nations outside the United States.

The International Codes are developed through a democratic process through a membership body that includes design professions, industry leaders, special interests, municipal representatives and builders. The process results in an updated building code every three years. Cyclical renewal helps to keep the code current with new technologies and techniques that are constantly being developed. In part because of this, these building codes are an industry standard for design professionals and have a proven track record for the preservation of life and property. This standardization helps efficiently and safely complete projects, reduce costs for builders and streamline projects.

Local Resources

The Colorado Chapter of the International Code Council (CCICC) has a rich history all the way back to its founding in 1953. For more than 70 years the CCICC has been a resource to jurisdictions all over Colorado for building code policy, adopting building code, and a forum for discussing technical aspects of enforcement. The Chapter also holds a yearly educational institute to help current professionals stay up to date with recent code changes and retain the education necessary for their certifications and licenses. The Colorado Chapter has directly assisted jurisdictions with the building code adoption process and their membership is comprised of design professionals and building officials for all over the state of Colorado. Visit their website at <http://www.coloradochaptericc.org/> to find out more about how this organization can assist municipalities further with building code questions.