



Permit Center

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Adopted Codes

Effective February 1st, 2021

The City of Bellingham enforces the following construction codes all as adopted in the Bellingham Municipal Code (BMC) Chapter 17. The Construction Administrative Code set forth in BMC 17.10.020 replaces the administrative chapters (typically chapter 1) of the adopted codes (except IFC). The IFC is adopted and amended per regulations set forth in BMC 17.20.

Building

- 2018 International Building Code (IBC) with state (Chapter 51-50 WAC) and local (BMC 17.10.020 Section 117) amendments
- 2018 International Residential Code (IRC) with state (Chapter 51-51 WAC) and local (BMC 17.10.020 Section 118) amendments
- 2018 International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) with local (BMC 17.10.020 Section 120) amendments
- 2018 International Existing Building Code (IEBC) with state (Chapter 51-50 WAC) amendments
- 2009 ICC/ANSI A117.1 Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities design standard with state (Chapter 51-50 WAC) amendments
- 2018 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPS) with state (Chapter 51-50 WAC) amendments

Energy Code

- 2018 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) with state amendments
 - Chapter 51-11C WAC (Commercial Provisions) Note: Use the “commercial” provisions for non-residential buildings and 4-story and higher multifamily buildings.
 - Chapter 51-11R WAC (Residential Provisions) Note: Use the “residential” provisions for single-family homes, duplexes, and townhouses and for 1-, 2-, and 3-story multifamily buildings.
- Note, this code is known as the Washington State Energy Code (WSEC)

Plumbing & Mechanical

- 2018 International Mechanical Code (IMC) with state (Chapter 51-52 WAC) amendments
- 2018 International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC) with state (Chapter 51-52 WAC) amendments
- 2018 National Fuel Gas Code (NFPA 54) with state (Chapter 51-52 WAC) amendments
- 2017 Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code (NFPA 58) state (Chapter 51-52 WAC) amendments
- 2018 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) with state (Chapters 51-56) and local (BMC 17.10.020 Section 119) amendments

Electrical

- 2020 National Electric Code (NEC / NFPA 70) with state (Chapter 296-46B WAC) amendments

Fire

- 2018 International Fire Code (IFC) with state (Chapter 51-54A WAC) and local (BMC 17.20) amendments
- Portions of the 2018 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code (WUIC) with state (Chapter 51-54A WAC) amendments

Structural Design Criteria

Seismic Design Category:

- IRC buildings: D1
- IBC buildings: Site Class D

Wind Speed:

- IRC buildings: 110 mph
- IBC buildings:
 - Risk Category I: $V = 92$ mph
 - Risk Category II: $V = 98$ mph
 - Risk Category III: $V = 105$ mph
 - Risk Category IV: $V = 109$ mph

Exposure B, unless a greater value is required under site specific conditions

Snow Load: 20 lbs/ft²-Ground and Roof

Soils: Per IRC Table R405.1, IBC Section 1804

Frost Depth: 12"

Maximum Allowable Soil Bearing Capacity: 2000 lbs/ft²**

Soil Classification Type: Group IV, unless a site-specific soils report assigning a different soil group classification is submitted and approved.