

Building Code Bits

New Laws Affecting Homeowners & Builders

At the direction of the 2007 Minnesota Legislature, the Department of Labor & Industry (DLI) adopted rules for window fall prevention devices as part of the MN State Building Code. Those rules became effective July 1, 2009. View the provisions online at: www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/PDF/sbc_1303.pdf.

Lawmakers also passed several bills in 2009 that change how residential building contractors and remodelers do business, particularly with respect to the warranties contractors are required to provide their customers and the "prompt payment" law for residential building contractors. These changes became effective August 1, 2009. You can download the full bills at: www.dli.mn.gov/cclld/pdf/hf420.pdf and www.dli.mn.gov/cclld/pdf/hf1056.pdf.

The new Energy Code was adopted effective June 1, 2009. The chapters of the State Building Code that regulate energy efficiency in new buildings, additions to buildings, and buildings undergoing alterations can be found at www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/EnergyConservation.asp.

By June 30, 2009, the license period for all boiler licenses, plumbing licenses and residential contractor licenses will be extended from one year to two years. The schedule for changes is posted on the DLI's website at www.dli.mn.gov/main.asp.

Just a reminder, to apply for residential electrical permits/inspections, please go to: www.dli.mn.gov/cclld/ElectricalHomeownerForms.asp.

Ask the Experts

What are the new requirements for radon in new construction? Part of the Energy Code includes the installation of a passive radon system in new homes. For further information, please refer to www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/EducationOutreach.asp.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the City of Faribault Building Codes Department at 2nd Floor of City Hall or 507-333-0387.