



Development
SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Building a Better and Safer Austin Together

2021 Technical Codes

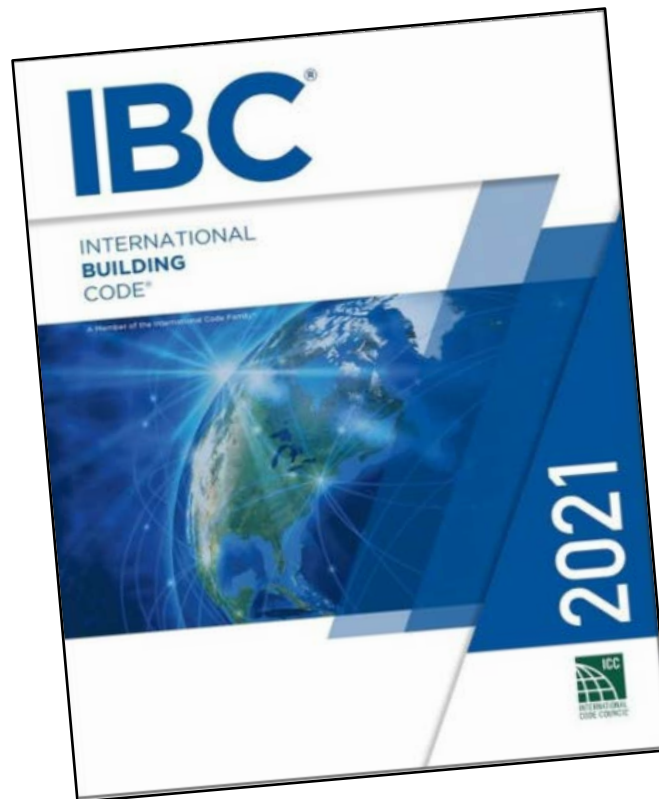


Purpose

To present proposed changes to the technical codes to be adopted by the City of Austin

2021 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE (IBC)

The IBC provides minimum requirements to safeguard the public health, safety and general welfare of the occupants of new and existing buildings and structures.



IBC Ordinance Significant Changes

- **Chapter 9** - fire protection and life safety systems were consolidated with the International Fire Code (IFC) to provide one consistent source of requirements.
- **1006.3.2 Single Exits, 1007.1.1 Two Exits or Exit Access Doorways, 1020.4 Dead Ends, 1027.3 Open Side** – returned to published code language for consistency with other municipalities with heavy support by the design community.
- **1101.2 Design** - rewritten in conjunction with the design community to clarify application of the Texas Accessibility Standards.
- **2901.1 Scope** - consolidated bathroom fixture design requirements into the Building code to provide one consistent source of requirements.

IBC Ordinance Significant Changes

- **Article 13 Administration of Technical Codes**
 - Clarify application filing requirements, annual permit expiration, and permit reactivation
 - Establish the Building and Fire Code Board as the board authorized to make recommendations to change Chapter 25-1 Article 4
- **Article 3 Flood Loads and Hazard Areas**
 - Reduced redundancy by consolidating multiple City Code sections:
 - IBC/IRC Floodplain Definitions
 - IBC Appendix G Flood-Resistant Construction
 - IBC 1612 Flood Loads
 - IRC R322 Flood-Resistant Construction
 - Ease of maintenance, only update when needed
 - Ease of reference for customers

2021 INTERNATIONAL EXISTING BUILDING CODE (IEBC)

The IEBC covers repair, alteration, addition and change of occupancy for existing buildings and historic buildings while achieving appropriate levels of safety without requiring full compliance with the new construction requirements contained in the other codes.

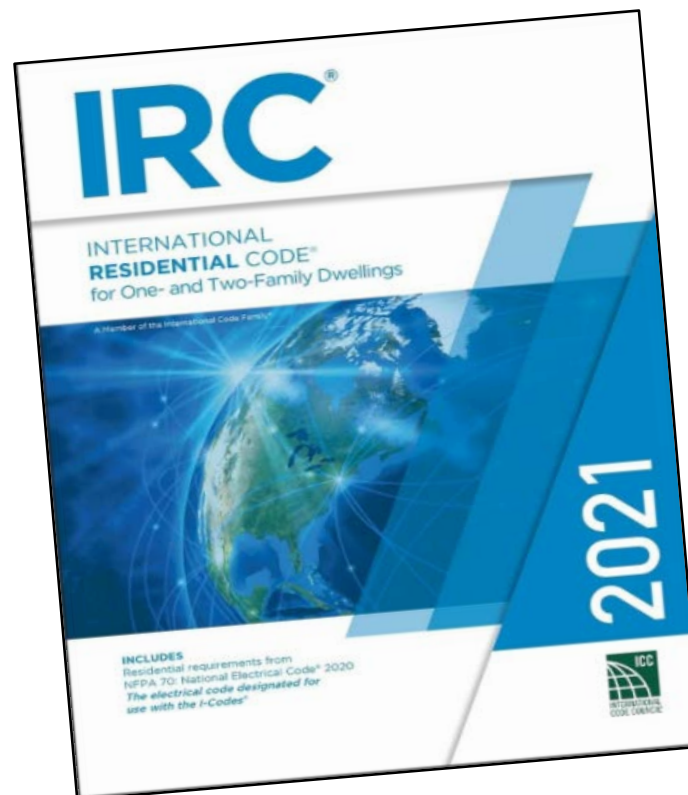


IEBC Ordinance Significant Changes

- No changes were made to the 2021 proposed ordinance, the existing changes pertain to business needs

2021 INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE (IRC)

The IRC provides minimum requirements to address the design and construction of one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses.

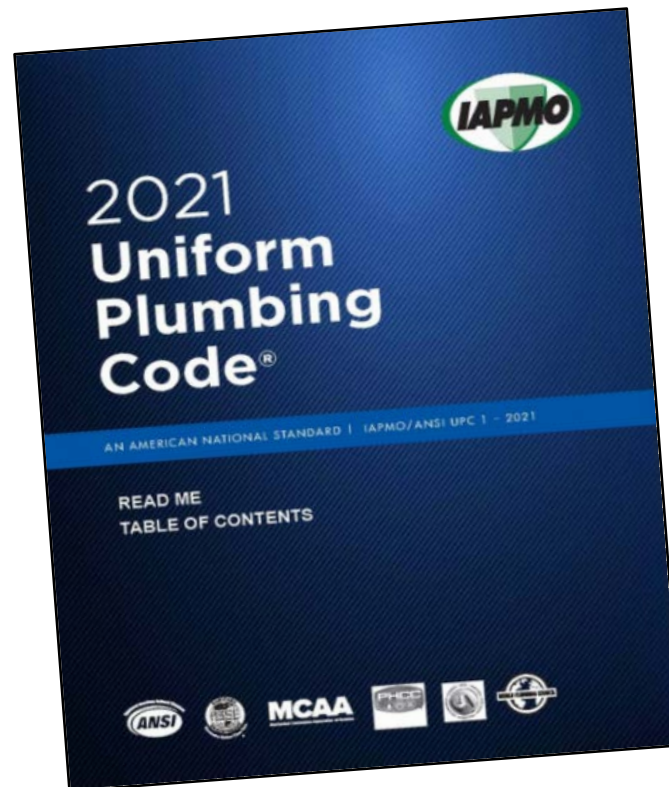


IRC Ordinance Significant Changes

- **R101.2 Scope** – allowing live/work units, custodial care facility and medical care to be constructed under the Residential code.
- **R105.2 Work Exempt From Permit** – increased exceptions to permitting for flatwork and foundation repair; increased square footage for siding and roof decking; added door replacement and a provision for the building official to allow other items as needed.
- Relocated COA specific inspection business processes into the Building Criteria Manual.

2021 UNIFORM PLUMBING CODE (UPC)

The UPC establishes minimum requirements to provide safe and sanitary plumbing systems for the protection of public health and welfare.



UPC Ordinance Significant Changes

- **422.1 Minimum Plumbing Facilities** – relocated to the Building code to minimize conflicting sources of bathroom fixture design requirements.
- Replaced local amendments with published code language minimizing the total amount of changes.
- Relocated business processes into the Building Criteria Manual.

2021 UNIFORM MECHANICAL CODE (UMC)

The UMC establishes minimum requirements to provide safe and efficient heating, ventilating, cooling and refrigeration systems.

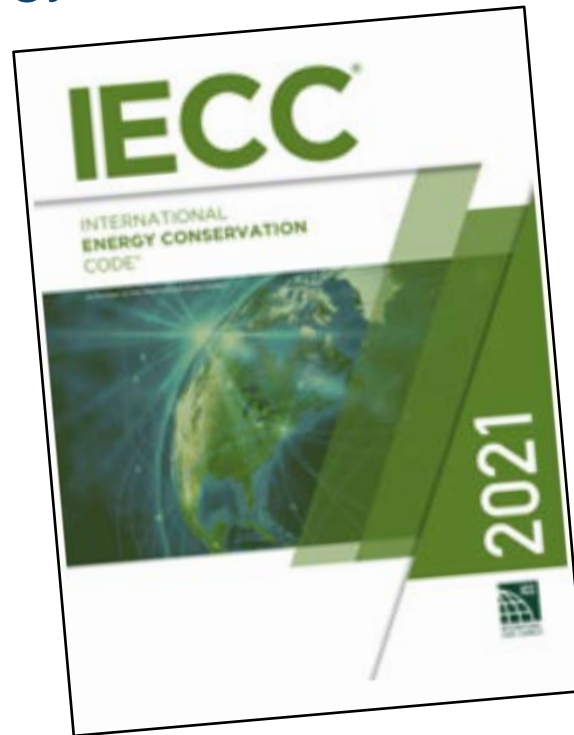


UMC Ordinance Significant Changes

- **104.2 Exempt Work** - added 4 additional items for exemption from permitting, and language to give the building official authority to add items as needed.
- **304.4.5 Concealed Space Designed for Appliances** - provided an option for equipment location that would minimize the effect on design.
- **504.4 Clothes Dryers Installation** - deleted local amendments and pointed to the International Mechanical Code for all dryer venting requirements allowing for one source of design information meeting preference of installers.

2021 INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE (IECC)

The IECC establishes minimum requirements for the design and construction of buildings for the effective use and conservation of energy over the useful life of each building.



IECC Ordinance Significant Changes

- Retained existing amendments where more stringent with published code
 - Encapsulation (to allow insulation to more closely match its labeled value)
 - Ventilation filtration, *MERV 6 (sealing of plenums and filtration)
 - Window performance (carve out for Design and Compatibility standards)
 - Demand response (to require open-source demand response capability)
 - Kept solar ready provisions for both residential and commercial construction
- Deleted amendments where now incorporated in published Code
 - Registered design professional (related to commissioning)
 - Roofing (now part of published code)
 - Interlocks (now part of published code)
 - Water heater timers (adding Demand Response alternative)
 - Commissioning (now part of published code)

IECC Ordinance Significant Changes

- Deleted requirement for gas water heating with adjacent gas service
- Added new code retaining timer language of
 - Added exception for open-source demand response technology
 - Retained exception for heat pump water heaters

Questions/Comments

