

## Where can I buy a copy of the Minnesota State Building Code (MSBC)?

Minnesota's Bookstore  
660 Olive Street  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
Phone: (651) 297-3000 or 1-800-657-3757  
TTY: (651) 282-5077 or 1-800-657-3706  
Web: [www.minnesotasbookstore.com](http://www.minnesotasbookstore.com)

Minnesota's Bookstore also has copies of the International Building Code (IBC) and International Residential Code (IRC) available for purchase. Visit its Web site or call for a complete list of code publications available.

The international code documents are also available directly from the **International Code Council (ICC)**.

International Code Council  
5203 Leesburg Pike, Suite 600  
Falls Church, VA 22041  
Phone: (703) 931-4533  
Web: [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org)

## Other resources for code requirements

Copies of the MSBC and international code documents may be available at your municipal library.

Individuals may also contact their local building official to view specific provisions of the code. Visit [www.doli.state.mn.us/pdf/bc\\_bo\\_list.pdf](http://www.doli.state.mn.us/pdf/bc_bo_list.pdf) for building official phone listings.

Contact local lumber suppliers or licensed contractors for publications or approved construction methods.

## How can I verify which cities or jurisdictions adopted the MSBC prior to Jan. 1 or April 1, 2008?

Adoption information can be clarified by viewing the list at [www.doli.state.mn.us/pdf/code\\_list.pdf](http://www.doli.state.mn.us/pdf/code_list.pdf)

## Department of Labor and Industry Construction Codes and Licensing Division

443 Lafayette Road N.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
Phone: (651) 284-5012 or 1-800-657-3944  
TTY: (651) 297-4198; Fax: (651) 284-5749  
Web: [www.doli.state.mn.us](http://www.doli.state.mn.us)  
[www.mncodes.org](http://www.mncodes.org)

The state of Minnesota adopts a set of construction standards, known as the Minnesota State Building Codes (MSBC), which contains safety requirements relating to structure, mechanical, plumbing, energy, electrical, elevators, manufactured buildings and life safety.

The information in this brochure is for general reference for construction projects. Contact your municipal building official regarding permits and specific code requirements for construction within your community.

## To confirm if a residential contractor is licensed in Minnesota, contact:

Department of Labor and Industry  
Residential Building Contractors  
Phone: (651) 284-5069 or 1-800-657-3944  
Web: [www.doli.state.mn.us/contractor](http://www.doli.state.mn.us/contractor)  
E-mail: [dli.contractor@state.mn.us](mailto:dli.contractor@state.mn.us)

## Gopher State One Call:

Call at least two full business days before you dig.  
Phone: 811 or (651) 454-0002  
Web: [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com)



This document can be provided in different forms, such as large print, Braille or audiotape, by calling (651) 284-5000 or (651) 297-4198/TTY.

# Minnesota's Statewide Construction Standard

How does this legislation  
affect you and your  
construction projects?



For more information about the  
Minnesota State Building Code, visit:  
[www.doli.state.mn.us/buildingcodes](http://www.doli.state.mn.us/buildingcodes).



The MSBC now provides the minimum level of health, safety, energy efficiency and durability standards for all buildings constructed in Minnesota.

### **A new standard**

The 2008 Minnesota Legislature passed legislation effective Aug. 1, 2008, that will have a significant positive impact on construction in Minnesota.

While this legislation does not require a community to enforce the Minnesota State Building Code (MSBC), it does establish the MSBC as the standard of construction statewide, which allows citizens recourse if the construction process goes awry. The new law gives consumers and quality contractors added protection through the home-building process. If litigation should be sought by a homeowner, the MSBC will now be used as the baseline for construction statewide.

The decision to administer and enforce the MSBC has traditionally been left up to local municipalities. About 20 Minnesota counties and larger communities (greater than 2,500 in population) have made the decision to adopt the code and regulate construction through a permit and inspection process.

Enforcement of the building code remains a local option for municipalities with a population of less than 2,500 that are located outside the metropolitan area. The code is not enforceable by municipalities unless it is adopted by local ordinance. There is no change to the agricultural buildings exemption.

### **A level playing field**

The MSBC is the minimum construction standard throughout all Minnesota cities, townships and counties. Although it is not enforceable by municipalities unless it is adopted by local ordinance, this law creates a level playing field for the construction industry by establishing the MSBC as the standard for the construction of all buildings in the state.

Excerpts of the new law that will be contained in Minnesota Statutes 16B.62, subd. 1a and 1b are included in this brochure.

# Effects of 2008 legislation: The Minnesota State Building Code

## **Application**

The MSBC is the standard that applies statewide for the construction, reconstruction, alteration and repair of buildings and other structures of the type governed by the code. It supersedes the building code of any municipality. The MSBC does not apply to agricultural buildings except with respect to state inspections required or rulemaking authorized by Minnesota Statutes sections 103F.141; 216C.19, subd. 9; and 326.244.

## **Existing provisions**

Some existing state building code provisions remain where enforcement is still mandatory throughout the state. These include electrical, elevator, accessibility, high-pressure piping, boiler, manufactured home, bleacher safety and commercial plumbing. With the exception of accessibility, these codes are enforced by the Construction Codes and Licensing Division in areas of the state where the code has not been adopted locally.

The responsibility for enforcement of bleacher codes and the accessibility code rests with a statutory or home rule charter city, or a county where there is no local ordinance in effect adopting the MSBC.

## **Municipal enforcement - Minnesota Statutes 16B.62, subd. 1a and 1b:**

(a) If, as of Jan. 1, 2008, a municipality has in effect an ordinance adopting the state building code, that municipality must continue to administer and enforce the state building code within its jurisdiction. The municipality is prohibited from repealing its ordinance adopting the state building code. This paragraph does not apply to municipalities with a population of less than 2,500, according to the most recent federal Census, that are located outside of a metropolitan county, as defined in section 473.121, subd. 4.

(b) If a municipality is not required by paragraph (a) to administer and enforce the state building code, the municipality may choose to administer and enforce the state building code within its jurisdiction by adopting the code by ordinance [appointing a certified building official and establishing a fee schedule].

## **Which code books are involved?**

The MSBC adopts by reference several model code documents published by the International Code Council (ICC). The MSBC document itself contains numerous Minnesota Rules chapters that identify the model code documents adopted and the Minnesota amendments to those model codes. Other rule chapters that address construction requirements specific to Minnesota, such as footing depth for frost protection, snow loads, wind loads, design requirements and administration of the MSBC.

The most currently adopted versions of the Minnesota State Building code, International Building Code and International Residential Code are generally required for residential and commercial construction.

## **Use of ungraded lumber**

The MSBC currently controls the structural use of lumber used in the construction of buildings. Municipalities that have adopted the state building code will continue to enforce the provisions for lumber use found in the code.

However, a provision was added by the Legislature that addresses the use of lumber in areas of the state that had not adopted the state building code. It states:

“The code must allow the use of ungraded lumber in geographic areas of the state where the code did not generally apply as of April 1, 2008, to the same extent that ungraded lumber could be used in that area before April 1, 2008.”