



Land Development Services

Technical Bulletin

Subject: Adoption of the 2021 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC)

Date: 12/14/23

No.: 23-07

Summary: Virginia adopts the 2021 Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC).

Effective Date: Administrative provisions of the 2021 USBC will be effective on January 18, 2024. From January 18, 2024 (effective date may change), until January 17, 2025, building permit applicants may choose to use the technical provisions of either the 2018 or 2021 USBC. Mixing technical provisions between the two editions of the code is prohibited. Beginning January 18, 2025, all new building permit applications and construction must meet the 2021 USBC requirements. This deadline includes updating “Masterfiles” to reflect the 2021 USBC. Developers must update existing county approved Masterfile plans to the 2021 USBC and receive county approval prior to January 18, 2025, to avoid delays in permit processing.

Background: The 2021 USBC version will replace the 2018 USBC. This technical bulletin supersedes technical bulletin 21-08.

Policy: On January 18, 2024, the 2021 Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) will go into effect. The 2021 USBC references the codes listed below and includes the Virginia-specific technical amendments.

- 2021 International Building Code
- 2021 International Residential Code
- 2021 International Mechanical Code
- 2021 International Fire Code
- 2021 International Fuel Gas Code
- 2021 International Plumbing Code
- 2020 National Electrical Code (NFPA 70)
- 2021 International Energy Conservation Code
- 2021 International Pool and Spa Code
- 2021 International Existing Building Code
- 2021 International Property Maintenance Code

Virginia versions of the codes which incorporate the Virginia-specific provisions can be found at the [International Code Council \(ICC\) website](#). The administrative provisions and technical amendments of the USBC are available as individual documents below.

- 2021 Virginia Construction Code
- 2021 Virginia Residential Code
- 2021 Virginia Existing Building Code
- 2021 Virginia Property Maintenance Code
- 2021 Virginia Mechanical Code

- 2021 Virginia Plumbing Code
- 2021 Virginia Fuel Gas Code
- 2020 National Electrical Code (NFPA 70)
- 2021 Virginia Amusement Device Regulations
- 2021 Virginia Industrialized Building Safety Regulations
- 2021 Building and Related Laws Package
- 2021 Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code
- 2021 Virginia Manufactured Home Safety Regulations

If you have any questions, please contact Kyle Kratzer in the Building Division by [email](#) or telephone, **703-324-1516**, TTY 711.

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