

CONSTRUCTION CODES**Commercial**

2021 International Building Code
2021 International Existing Building Code
2021 International Fire Code
2021 Uniform Mechanical Code
2021 Uniform Plumbing Code
2023 National Electrical Code (State Mandated)
2021 International Energy Conservation Code,
or ASHRAE 90.1-2019

STRUCTURAL REQUIREMENTS*

Basic Wind Speed Enforcing ASCE/SEI 7-2022 Edition:

- IRC** - Site specific* (See ASCE 7 Windspeed Website: <https://asce7hazardtool.online/>)
- IBC** - Site specific* (See ASCE 7 Windspeed Website: <https://asce7hazardtool.online/>)

Seismic Design Category: A

Weathering Probability: Negligible (IRC)*

Roof Design Load*:

- IRC** - Varies (Refer to Table R301.6)*
- IBC** – Varies (Refer to Table 1607.1)*

Soil Class: Expansive*

Wind Exposure Category: B*

Ground Snow Load: 0*

Frost Line Depth: 6 inches*

Maximum rainfall rate: 8 inches/hour*

* These are general requirements for Houston and certain conditions may vary depending on the location.

PLAN REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

- Complete set of plans
- Applicable Energy Software Report, or prescriptive compliance shown on the plans
- TDLR numbers for accessibility: <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/ab/abtas.htm>
- Asbestos Survey for existing building(s) – (TDH Toxic Substances Control Division • (800) 572-5548)

Note: Although every effort is made to ensure accuracy, the code specifications identified in the Houston Construction Code always prevail over information provided in handouts. This information is general in nature. For minimum submittal requirements, please refer to the prerequisite checklists online at <https://www.houstonpermittingcenter.org/resources>. For specific questions, consult with a Senior Plan Analyst at commercial.planreview@houstontx.gov or residential.planreview@houstontx.gov or by calling 832-394-8810, or Senior Structural Inspector at structural.inspections@houstontx.gov or by calling (832) 394-8840.

Residential

2021 International Residential Code
2021 International Existing Building Code
2021 International Energy Conservation Code

Note: All construction codes on this list have been amended by the City of Houston. To access the amendments, visit: <https://www.houstonpermittingcenter.org/construction-code-modernization/code-amendment>

ENERGY REQUIREMENTS

Heating Degree Days: 1371

Climate Zone (Energy): 2-A

PLUMBING REQUIREMENTS*

Minimum Plumbing Fixtures: See Table 2902.1 (of the *Building Code*)

OTHER GENERAL REQUIREMENTS*

Designs for Parking lots, Sidewalks and Driveways: See Chapter 31 of the *Building Code*

The Life Safety Ordinance for existing buildings: Appendix D of the *Existing Building Code*



WEBSITE INFORMATION

Check plan review status and schedule inspections - www.houstonpermittingcenter.org/our-services/eservices

Building Code Enforcement Home Page - www.houstonpermittingcenter.org/building-code-enforcement
Public Works and Engineering website - www.publicworks.houstontx.gov

Planning and Development website - www.houstontx.gov/planning

Fire Department website - www.houstontx.gov/fire/

City Website - www.houstontx.gov

