ENERGY CODE REQUIREMENTS FOR 1 & 2 FAMILY AND TOWNHOMES

Construction Code Services Division
Informational Bulletin
Revised April 2010

ENERGY REQUIREMENTS Effective June 1, 2009 (International Residential Code 2006 amended Chapter 11)

Buildings are required to be built to the minimum standards of Minnesota Energy Code Minnesota Rules 1322 https://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/rules/?id=1322 and 1323. Minnesota Rules 1322 covers residential 1 and 2 family and townhouse construction. Rules 1323 covers other construction.

Res Check: The program can still be used, just make sure you have updated the information to meet the Minnesota changes. See http://www.energycodes.gov/rescheck/

Windows: There are many changes to make the code easier to use and calculate. For instance, the typical sunroom addition is now permitted with unlimited windows, and the window to wall ratio calculations have been removed when using energy efficient windows that are the norm today.

Basement and crawl space slabs: New radon control measures are now required by Minnesota Statute. These systems will be needed in new construction if you have an enclosed foundation area. You may wish to look at the radon issue http://www.doli.state.mn.us/CCLD/PDF/edu_radon.pdf if you are installing a new drain tile system for your existing home. Talk to your installer.

Foundations: R-10 is the typical minimum insulation level. Many studies were done to arrive at this minimum level. There are ways to use less insulation, and the designer should carefully consider using any lesser amounts in a particular situation. You are allowed to cut the top of foam insulation at a 45 degree angle for finishing without a penalty. Existing basements built before 6-1-2009 may be insulated as the designer determines based on existing construction limitations.

Water separation plane: New foundations are required to have a continuous water separation plane between the interior and exterior unless you follow the prescriptive methods contained in the code that create a similar design.

Rim areas: Minnesota has amended the code to allow greater amounts of unprotected spray foam due to the success and lack of fire issues with foam in these areas.

Walls: Full depth wall insulation for remodeling remains, and the R-19 or 13 + 5 with seal and air barrier requirements used in the past for new construction remain.

Ceiling insulation: R-38 using an energy heel truss remains.

Building Certificate: To assist future changes to a building, a certificate will be filled out and posted in a permanently visible location inside the building. This will be completed by your builder.