



December News & Information

This newsletter highlights several upcoming changes that affect Building Inspection and Permittal customers. For questions regarding these items, please email lisa.brown@houstontx.gov.

New Interpretation Regarding Glass Block in Exterior Fire-Rated Walls

A new interpretation has been issued regarding single-family homes and the use of glass block in the exterior wall. This interpretation is effective immediately, as it is an equivalency to our current requirement. To download a copy of this interpretation, please [click here](#). For a copy of the entire Code Word publication, please visit the [Code Development page](#).

2015 Fee Increase *Effective January 1, 2015*

Starting **January 1, 2015**, building inspection, plan review, licenses and permit fees, including the administrative fee, will be automatically increased by 2.8416% as required by Section 1-13 of the City of Houston Code of Ordinances. This percentage is based on the Consumer Price Index.

- The new minimum fee for most permits will be \$74.65 and the new administrative fee is \$27.52. Please note that plumbing permits have a minimum fee of \$79.99.
- Applications for single trade permits submitted prior to the effective date of this change will be grandfathered under the previous fees.
- Construction plans submitted prior to January 1, 2015 must comply with the Plan Review [Prerequisites](#) for 2014 fee rates to apply. Residential construction projects must have complete plans submitted prior to the effective date in order for the 2014 rate to be applied.

Forms, publications and web pages will be updated soon to reflect the new fees.

Temporary Closing of the Dacoma Satellite Office *December 24, 2014 - January 1, 2015*

Due to the AGC Houston building closure during the holidays, the Dacoma Office will be closed from **Wednesday**

December 24th, 2014 – Thursday, January 1st, 2015.

For your convenience, trade permits may be purchased:

- Online at www.houstonpermittingcenter.org/city-of-houston-permits/online-permits.html with a major credit card or an Advance Pay Account (SR). Please note that you must be a registered user to use this service.
- By fax with an Advance Pay Account (SR) only. For more information regarding this service, please contact Permits Section at 832-394-8899.
- For all other services, please visit our Main Office at 1002 Washington Avenue, Houston, TX 77002 or other Satellite Offices.

**** Please note ALL of our offices will be closed on December 24, December 25, and New Year's Day. ****

2012 Residential Code Change Proposals *Open for Public Comment*

The Building Code Enforcement Branch is currently reviewing 2012 International Residential Code for possible adoption in 2015.

The proposed amendments were developed by Building Code Enforcement staff with the goal of minimizing number of amendments to maintain the code as close as possible to the nationally promulgated codes ensuring City of Houston stays current with the codes adopted throughout the country. Each amendment was justified as to impact and necessity. Historical amendments that were not necessary were removed, such as pointers, clarification or reworded code language with the same intent.

As part of the process, to ensure there is an appropriate vehicle for input from all interested persons and organizations, you are invited to submit proposals for code change amendments in writing. The Residential Code Change Proposal comment is open until **February 1, 2015**. Please complete the Code Change Proposal Form before the above date to be reviewed for inclusion in the updated code amendments. Proposed amendments need to be justified with an explanation indicating whether it increases safety, maintains a reasonable level of safety in a cost-effective manner, or addresses unique local conditions.

- [Proposed 2012 Houston Residential Code Amendments](#)
- [Residential Code Change Proposal Form](#)

Please contact Sheila.Blake@houstontx.gov for more information or to submit any proposals.

15th Houston Building Professional Institute *February 23-26, 2015*

The University of Texas Construction Research Center and the Building Officials Association of Texas (BOAT) will offer various code training classes February 23-26, 2015 at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel in Houston.

The training will provide valuable CEU credits for ICC, AIA, and TDLR. Classes will cover topics such as the Building Code, Fire, and State Plumbing Regulations, and Texas Accessibility Standards, among others.

For more information and to register, please visit <http://civileng.uta.edu/bpi>.

****Please note that this is not a City of Houston event. ****

BUILDING CODE ENFORCEMENT CONTACT INFORMATION

PLAN REVIEW

Commercial- (832) 394-8810

One-Stop - (832) 394-8820 (*Commercial Remodels and Residential*)

INSPECTIONS

Building - (832) 394-8840

Mechanical - (832) 394-8850

Electrical - (832) 394-8860

Plumbing - (832) 394-8870

Occupancy/Life Safety - (832) 394-8880

Habitability - (832) 394-8841

Sign Administration - (832) 394-8890

PERMIT OFFICE

General - (832) 394-8899

Clear Lake Office - (832) 395-6787

Dacoma Office - (713) 686-6224

Kingwood Office - (281) 361-9580

Utility Releases - (832) 394-8847

OTHER INFORMATION

Customer Assistance & Code Development Office- (832) 394-9035

Automated Inspection Request Line - (713) 222-9922

Other City Departments- Dial 311

For Additional Permit Information:

You may obtain information about permits by visiting our website at www.houstonpermits.com. You will then be linked to our database of sold permits. If you have questions about any of the permits, please contact our Code Enforcement Group at (832) 394-9494.

To Reach Other City of Houston Departments:

<http://www.houstontx.gov> or dial 311

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