

City of Killeen

Significant Residential Code Changes

(Effective January 1, 2016)

2015 IRC (International Residential Code)

- R301.2 - Wind speeds changed from 90 mph to 115 mph
- R302.5.1 - Self-closing hinges or device required for passage door between house and garage
- R303.4 - Mechanical ventilation for outdoor air required (see M1507.3)
- R312 - Window fall protection shall be provided when the window sill is more than 72" above outside grade and less than 24" above finished floor.
- R314.2 - Smoke alarms must be min 10 ft from cooking appliances and 3 ft from bathroom doors
- R314.4 - Wireless smoke alarms are allowed
- R315.2 - Carbon Monoxide Alarms are required when the attached garage has door entry into house or when fuel-fired appliance is located in a bedroom or adjoining bathroom
- R404.4 - Retaining walls supporting more than 48 inches of unbalanced backfill or more than 24 inches of resisting additional lateral loads (surcharge) requires design by engineer
- Table R502.3.1 & .2 - Floor joist span lengths for Southern Pine has decreased.
- R602.10.2 - Braced wall panels must start within 10 ft of wall end; not be spaced more than 20 ft apart and the Portal Frame withhold downs for garage doors may have two bottom plats instead of three.
- Table R802.4 & .5 - Allowable ceiling joists and rafter spans for Southern Pine has decreased
- R905.2.8.5- Requires 2 inch wide drip edge with ¼ inch overhang
- R1005.7 - Limits factory chimney offsets to 30 degrees and no more than 4 elbows permitted

2015 IRC (Residential Plumbing)

- P2503 Inspections and Tests
 - Ten foot head pressure test for Building Sewer piping systems
 - DWV piping system shall be water tested to five feet above the highest fitting or entire system OR optional air test of 5 psi on 15 pound gage
 - Finished plumbing shall have all traps set and filled with water
- P2801 Pan drain piping is not required during water heater replacement if there is no existing drain
- P2804.6.1 T&P relief valve discharge pipe must:
 - Terminate in same room with air gap
 - PEX and PE-RT tubing must be one size larger
 - Outlet end of tubing must be fastened in place
- P2903.4.2 An expansion tank is required to control thermal expansion from a storage water heater when a backflow prevention device, check valve or other similar device is installed.
- P3003.9 Purple primer is not required for DWV fittings 4-inch or smaller
- P3201.2 Floor drain trap seal protection now includes barrier-type devices per ASSE 1072

2015 IRC (Mechanical)

- M1301.2 – all pipe, tubing and fittings require the manufacturer’s mark and 3rd parting testing
- M1411.8 – refrigerant access ports located outdoors shall be fitted with locking caps
- M1506.3 – exhaust openings must terminate at least 3 feet from property lines, building openings and 10 feet from mechanical intakes
- M1506.2 – the code establishes the maximum lengths for exhaust duct lengths (flex duct is very limited)
- M1507.3 – requires outdoor air whole-house ventilation
- M1601.4 requires UL 181B tape or mastic for sealing flexible ducts
- M2301 addresses thermal solar energy systems

2015 IRC (Residential Energy)

- Reminder to use 2015 IECC RES Check software for Killeen Texas.
- R103.4 requires any energy code changes made during construction must be resubmitted for approval
- Bell County Climate Zone per Figure C301.1 = 2(A) Moist / Warm-Humid climate
- R401.3 requires a permanent energy certificate to be posted at the furnace location
- N1102.2.4 (R402.2.4) requires access doors from conditioned space to attic be weather stripped and insulated to the same level as the surrounding surfaces (R38)
- N1102.4.1.1 (R402.4.1.1) requires insulation at wall corner and header framing spaces
- R403.1.1 Programmable thermostat to be set at 70 degrees heat and 78 degrees cool
- R403.5.3 Minimum R3 insulation for water heater pipes when:
 - ¾ inch or larger and if serves more than one dwelling unit
 - Located outdoors and if located under floor slab
 - Buried in piping or if part of a recirculating system
- R403.7 requires heating and cooling equipment to be sized with ACCA Manual S in accordance with Manual J
- Figure 2012 Energy 30% more energy savings
 - R403.6 Mandatory mechanical ventilation with automatic or gravity closing outside dampers
 - Attic insulation is R38 and exterior walls are R13
 - Window U-Factor of 0.40 or lower and SHGC 0.25 or lower
 - R402.4 Mandatory air leakage test (door blower)
 - R43.3.3 Mandatory duct testing (Minimum 4 cfs leakage per 100 sq ft of conditioned floor space)
 - 75% high efficacy bulbs are required

2014 NEC (National Electrical Code)

- State adopted 2014 NEC effective September 01, 2014
- 210.8(A) GFCI protection is required for:
 - 210.8(A)(7) for all receptacles within 6 feet of outer edge of sinks
 - 210.8(A)(9) for all receptacles within 6 feet of outer edge of bathtubs/shower stalls
 - 210.8(A)(10) required for all receptacles in the Laundry Areas
 - 210.8(D) required for receptacle serving dishwashers
- 210.12(A) AFCI Protection is required for:
 - 210.12(A) now includes Kitchens and Laundry rooms (leaves out bathrooms & garages)
 - 210.12(B) branch circuit extensions or replacements shall be AFCI protected
- 210.52(E)(3) attached balconies, decks and porches require at least one receptacle
- 210.52(G)(1) at least one receptacle for each car space in garages
- 404.2(C) the grounded conductor (neutral) shall be provided at switch location for lighting controls
- 406.4(D) replacement AFCI and GFCI receptacles are required to be readily accessible
- 406.9(B)(1) extra duty covers are required for receptacles in wet locations
- 680.73 hydromassage tub electrical equipment shall be accessible without damaging the structure/finish and the cord and plug receptacle for the motor shall be within 1-foot of the service opening