

Jan. 4, 2007
2006 International Residential Code for Knox County

Major Changes

All residential building permits issued in 2007 should be inspected for the following items:

1. **Radon control** vent required except in vented crawl spaces. All slab or basement homes must have a 3" tee under the slab and a 3" vent extending into the attic.
2. **1/2" Anchor bolts** embedded 7" in concrete or concrete filled cells, code approved anchor straps embedded per manufacturers instructions or other anchorage devices approved by the building official are required. Cut nails and power driven fasteners will no longer be accepted without drawings and calculations sealed by a structural engineer showing code compliance.
3. **Foundation wall bracing** is required for the top of all foundation walls where the floor structure is parallel to the wall. For backfill less than 4 feet blocking is required in the first two joist spaces at 4 feet on center. For backfill 4 feet or more blocking is required in the first three joist spaces at 2 feet on center. Blocking must be solid full depth 2x for 2x floor structures. Angled bridging of 2 x 4 min. from the sill to the top of the first floor structural member and flat 2 x 4 between the top chords in the next two spaces is the minimum for engineered floor systems.
4. **Garage ceiling** must have 5/8" type x gypsum if there is a room above.
5. **Egress** door or window is required from a basement the same as a bedroom even if there is not a bedroom in the basement.
6. **Egress window** minimum clear opening height is 24". 5.7 sq. ft. is required on 2nd floor.
7. **Landings** must be no lower than 7 3/4" from top of threshold.
8. **Stair risers** must be 8" maximum.
9. **Handrails** or guards for stairs must be 34" minimum above the nose of the stair tread.
10. **Guardrails** shall not allow a 4" ball to pass except 4 3/8" is allowed on the open side of stairs.
11. **Water-resistive barrier** is required behind all exterior finishes including siding.
12. **Duct insulation** must be R-6.
13. **Insulation** for floor and wall is minimum R-13.

There are other changes in the new code. This is a list of some of the changes.

Contact the codes office at 865-215-2325 for any questions.