

Vermont Residential Building Energy Code

Basic Requirements ~ Summary

Note: This is an overview of key points. See Appendix C for complete details.

1	Air Leakage	Seal all joints, access holes and other such openings in the building envelope, as well as connections between building assemblies. Air barrier installation must follow criteria established in Section C.1a.
2	Vapor Retarder	For non-vented framed ceilings, wall and floors, install a vapor retarder (i.e., 6 mil. plastic or vapor-barrier paint) on the warm-in-winter side of the insulation.
3	Duct Insulation	In unconditioned spaces, insulate supply and return ducts for heating and cooling systems to the same level as adjacent spaces.
4	Duct Sealing	All ducts, air handlers and filter boxes must be sealed and tested according to the standards outlined in Section C.3c unless located within conditioned space. Building framing cavities may not be used as supply ducts.
5	Programmable Thermostat	Where the primary heating system is a forced-air furnace, forced-air split system heat pump, packaged unit heat pump, water boiler or steam boiler, at least one programmable thermostat per home must be installed.
6	Solid Fuel-Burning Appliances and Fireplaces	All solid fuel-burning appliances and fireplaces must have tight-fitting, gasketed metal, glass or ceramic doors with compression closure or compression latch system.
7	Exhaust Fans	Exhaust dampers are required for kitchen, bath and dryer fans.
8	Ventilation & Combustion Safety	All homes must have an automatically controlled ventilation system. Chimney-vented combustion devices must have combustion air. See Chapter 2 for details.
9	Maximum Fenestration U-Factor	The area-weighted average maximum fenestration U-factor permitted using trade-offs is 0.32 for windows and 0.55 for skylights.
10	Mechanical System Piping Insulation	Mechanical system piping capable of carrying fluids above 105°F (41°C) or below 55°F (13°C) must be insulated to a minimum of R-3.
11	Lighting	A minimum of 50% of the lamps in permanently installed lighting fixtures must be high-efficiency lamps.
12	Circulating Hot Water Systems	All circulating service hot water piping must be insulated to at least R-3. Circulating hot water systems must also include an automatic or readily accessible manual switch that can turn off the hot water circulating pump when the system is not in use.
13	Equipment Sizing	Heating and cooling equipment must be sized in accordance with ACCA Manual S based on building loads calculated in accordance with ACCA Manual J or other approved heating and cooling calculation methodologies.
14	Certification	Complete a <i>Vermont Residential Building Energy Standards Certificate</i> for each dwelling. Send one copy to the Vermont Department of Public Service and one copy to the town clerk of the town in which the property is located, and affix the original on or near the home's electrical panel or heating equipment.

For details about any of these requirements, see Appendix C.

An extended version of this table may be found in Appendix C.