



Significant Changes In 2013 California Codes For CalGreen - Green Building Standards Code

PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT • COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
976 OSOS STREET • ROOM 200 • SAN LUIS OBISPO • CALIFORNIA 93408 • (805) 781-5600

The 2013 Standards went into effect on January 1, 2014

Residential Changes

The purpose of the Green Building Code is to improve public health, safety and general welfare by enhancing the design and construction of buildings through the use of building concepts having a reduced negative impact or positive environmental impact and encouraging sustainable construction practices in the following categories:

1. Planning and design
2. Energy efficiency
3. Water efficiency and conservation
4. Material conservation and resource efficiency
5. Environmental quality

Building shall be designed to include the green building measures specified as mandatory in the application checklists contained in this code. Voluntary green building measures are also included in the application checklists and may be included in the design and construction of structures covered by this code, but are NOT required unless adopted by the County. See the end of this document for the SLO County Green Building Ordinance Requirements

The mandatory provisions of **Chapter 4** shall be applied to **additions or alterations** of existing residential buildings where the addition or alteration increases the building's conditioned area, volume, or size. The requirements shall apply only to and/or within the specific area of the addition or alteration.

The provisions of individual sections of CALGreen may apply to either low-rise residential buildings (Group R Occupancy that is 3 stories or less in height), high-rise residential buildings (Group R Occupancy that is 4 stories or greater in height), or both.

On and after January 1, 2014, residential buildings undergoing permitted alterations, additions or improvements shall replace noncompliant plumbing fixtures with water conserving plumbing fixtures. Plumbing fixture replacement is required prior to issuance of a certificate of final completion, certificate of occupancy or final permit approval by local building department.

Indoor Water Use

The 20% reduction of water use is now prescriptively designated within CALGreen text.

- Water closets: < 1.28 gallon/flush
- Urinals: < 0.5 gallons/flush

- Single Showerhead: < 2.0 gpm @ 80 psi.
- Multiple Showerheads: combined flow rate of all showerheads and/or other shower outlets controlled by a single valve shall not exceed 2.0 gpm @80 psi or only one shower outlet is to be in operation at a time.
- Residential Lavatory Faucet: < 1.5 gpm @60psi.
- Lavatory Faucets in Common and Public Use of Residential Buildings: < 0.5 gpm @ 60psi.
- Metering Faucets: < 0.25 gallons per cycle.
- Kitchen Faucets: < 1.8 GPM @ 60psi.

Material Conservation and Resource Efficiency

Specifies the areas needing rodent proofing are sole/bottom plates. Annular spaces around pipes, electric cables, conduits or other openings in sole/bottom plates at exterior walls shall be protected against the passage of rodents by closing such openings with cement mortar, concrete masonry or similar method acceptable to the enforcing agency.

Environmental Quality Pollutant Control

Compliance rate of resilient flooring is increased from 50% to 80%. Where resilient flooring is installed, at least 80 percent of floor area receiving resilient flooring shall comply with one or more of the following:

- VOC emissions limits defined in the Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) High Performance Products Database.
- Products compliant with CHPS criteria certified under Greenguard Children & Schools program.
- Certification under the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) FloorScore program
- Meet the California Department of Public Health, “Standard Method for the Testing and Evaluation of Volatile Organic Chemical Emissions from Indoor Sources Using Environmental Chambers,” Version 1.1, February 2010 (also known as Specification 01350).

Non-Residential Changes

Site Development

- Stormwater pollution prevention BMP: Clarifies that it also applies to additions.
- Bicycle parking: Updated for additions and alterations.
- Light pollution reduction: Clarifies that it applies to new construction only.
- Grading and paving: Exceptions for additions and alterations.

Water Efficiency and Conservation Indoor water use

- Separate water sub-meters for subsystems: Clarifies that it also applies to additions.
- 20% reduction is indoor water use.
- Prescriptive and performance standards with updated tables: New sections: “Water Reduction”: Comply with reduced flow rate table; Water conserving plumbing fixtures

and fittings. Prescriptive reduced flow rates for: water closets, Urinals, and Showerheads and new exceptions for performance 20% reduction. Clarifies that it applies to effected areas of additions and alterations.

- Wastewater reduction: Clarifies that it applies to new construction only.

Material Conservation and Resource Efficiency - Weather Resistance and Moisture

Management

- Design for moisture control entries and opening: Exterior door protection removed notes and updated requirements.

Construction Waste Reduction, Disposal and Recycling

- Construction waste reduction of 50%: Added demolition requirement.
- Waste management plan requirements: Added demolition requirement.
- Exception for isolated jobsites: Removed exception.

Building Maintenance and Operation

- Recycling by occupants:
- Building commissioning for new buildings 10,000 square feet and over:
- Testing and adjusting for buildings less than 10,000 square feet.

Environmental Quality

Pollutant Control

- Temporary construction ventilation: Clarifies requirements for areas of additions or alterations.
- Finished materials– Carpet systems, Composite wood products and resilient flooring: Clarifies VOC emissions limits and testing requirements. Add CA- CHPS to list of approved methods of compliance.
- Filter requirements for small H.E. ductless units: Clarifies MERV exceptions and added new exception for existing mechanical equipment. New labeling requirements section.

Indoor air quality

- CO₂ monitoring: Clarifies that it also applies to additions.

Environmental comfort

- Exterior noise transmission: Clarifies that it also applies to additions.

Outdoor air quality-New Sections:

- Supermarket refrigerant leakage reduction: for retail food stores 8,000 sq. ft. or more.
- Refrigerant piping and values: meet California Mechanical Code.
- Refrigerant services cases: use corrosion-resistant materials.
- Refrigerant receivers: if over 200 lbs. provide level indicator.
- Pressure testing: test during installation.

Since adoption of the 2013 California Energy Code has been delayed until 7/1/2014 the County of San Luis Obispo Green Building Ordinance adopted in August of 2012 is still in effect until the new energy Code goes into effect on 7/1/2014.

Please go to the following links for the current SLO County Green Building Ordinance Requirements;

[SLO County Residential Green Building Ordinance Requirements](#)

[SLO County Non-Residential Green Building Ordinance Requirements](#)