



# BUILDING IN SEATTLE:

# What Codes Do I Need?

## MAKING SENSE OF THE ABUNDANCE OF CODES TO FOLLOW IN SEATTLE

Does it seem like there are more codes than you can shake your fist at? Are you feeling beset by acronyms like IFGC, ANSI and VIAQ? If so, this may help you. We tried to summarize and categorize the codes and list the codes needed for the usual permit applications below. As with most things these days, there is a caveat—complex or unusual projects may require other codes; this includes only the basics.

### SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCES AND TOWNHOUSES\*

- 2003 International Residential Code (IRC)
- Seattle IRC amendments
- Washington State Ventilation and Indoor Air Quality Code (VIAQ)
- 2004 Washington State Energy Code with Seattle amendments
- 2003 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC)
- Seattle/King County amendments to 1997 UPC (The amendments are expected to be updated in 2007. In the meantime, the 1997 amendments are still in force.)
- 2005 National Electrical Code (NEC)
- 2005 Seattle Electrical Code Supplement (SEC)

### MECHANICAL SYSTEMS OTHER THAN PROPANE

- For all mechanical systems:
  - 2003 International Mechanical Code (IMC)
  - Seattle IMC amendments
- Residential buildings also need:
  - Washington State Ventilation and Indoor Air Quality Code (VIAQ)
- Fuel gas installations also need:
  - 2003 International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC)
  - Seattle amendments to IFGC

### OTHER BUILDINGS

- Seattle Building Code (SBC)—consists of International Building Code with Seattle amendments integrated into it.
- ICC/ANSI A117.1-2003 Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities (The state of WA no longer adopts a unique accessibility chapter.)
- ASCE 7 Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures (published by the American Society of Civil Engineers)
- Appropriate structural standards for the type of construction materials

### PROPANE SYSTEMS

- ANSI Z223.1/NFPA 54 National Fuel Gas Code, 2002 edition
- NFPA 58 Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code, 2001 edition
- 2003 Seattle Fire Code

### PLUMBING SYSTEMS

- 2003 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC)
- Seattle/King County amendments to 1997 UPC (The amendments are expected to be updated in 2007. In the meantime, the 1997 amendments are still in force.)

\*Townhouses are defined as attached units that extend from foundation to roof. Dwellings with a garage or other space below that is shared with other units are not considered townhouses.

### DPD TECHNICAL CODES SUPPORT

Building Code – (206) 684-4630, Hours: M-F, 1 p.m.-4:15 p.m.  
 Electrical Code – (206) 684-5383, Hours: M-F, 7:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
 Energy/Mechanical Code – (206) 684-7846, Hours: M-F, 1 p.m.-4:15 p.m.