



DE KALB COUNTY
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New, State-Mandated Energy Code Takes Effect

As of January 1, 2013, the State of Illinois has adopted the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code as the new Illinois Energy Conservation Code. Consequently, any permit issued after January 1 will be required to comply with this, more stringent group of requirements. Some of the revisions affecting residential construction include:

Component	Old Requirement (2009 IECC)	New Requirement (2012 IECC)
Window U-Factor	.35 or less	.32 or less
Attic / Ceiling R-Value	R-38	R-49
Basement Wall R-Value	R-10 (continuous) -or- R-13 (installed between studs)	R-15 (continuous) -or- R-19 (installed between studs)
Crawl Space Wall R-Value (to a minimum of 4' below grade)	R-10 (continuous) -or- R-13 (installed between studs)	R-15 (continuous) -or- R-19 (installed between studs)
Lighting	At least 50% must be high-efficacy fixtures	At least 75% must be high-efficacy fixtures

While the requirements listed above will create a modest increase in the cost of construction, there are three new requirements that are likely to create the most controversy and potential confusion:

1. **Required Duct Leakage Testing** - If heating or air conditioning ducts are located outside the conditioned envelope of the structure (attic, exterior walls, other unconditioned space), duct leakage testing, by a qualified testing company will be required for the entire system. This testing company must be certified by a recognized agency such as BPI (Building Performance Institute) or HERS (Home Energy Rating System). This test may occur before the rough inspection (for ease of access to necessary corrections) OR (not recommended) before the final inspection. This requirement applies to new homes as well as additions or alterations (remodeling).
2. **Blower Door Testing** - All new homes must be tested and verified as having an air leakage rate of not exceeding 5. This testing company must be certified by a recognized agency such as BPI (Building Performance Institute) or HERS (Home Energy Rating System). This requirement does not apply to additions.
3. **Mechanical Ventilation (Mandatory)**. The building or dwelling unit shall be provided with a whole-house mechanical ventilation system as designed in accordance with Section R403.5. The whole-house ventilation system shall consist of one or more supply or exhaust fans, or a combination, and associated ducts and controls. Local exhaust or supply fans are permitted to serve as such a system. Outdoor air ducts connected to the return side of an air handler shall be considered to provide supply ventilation.

[Here is a link to the State Act.](#) And here is a link to the [2012 International Energy Conservation Code](#). Please feel free to contact our department for more information.