

# VIRGINIA CONSTRUCTION CODE

## Introduction

The Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) is a state regulation promulgated by the Virginia Board of Housing and Community Development, a Governor-appointed board, for the purpose of establishing minimum regulations to govern the construction and maintenance of buildings and structures. The provisions of the USBC are based on nationally recognized model building and fire codes published by the International Code Council, Inc.. The model codes are made part of the USBC through a regulatory process known as incorporation by reference. The USBC also contains administrative provisions governing the use of the model codes and establishing requirements for the enforcement of the code by the local building departments and other code enforcement agencies. In keeping with the designations of the USBC used previously, since the 2012 editions of the International Codes are incorporated by reference into this version of the USBC, it is known as the 2012 edition of the USBC.

## Arrangement

The USBC is part of the Virginia Administrative Code (VAC), the official compilation of state regulations published under the authority and guidance of the Virginia Code Commission. Due to the difference in the section numbering system between the VAC and the model codes incorporated by reference into the USBC, the USBC utilizes a dual section numbering system. In the USBC, the VAC section numbers are listed first, followed by a section number matching the model code system. In this printing of the USBC, the VAC section numbers are omitted and only the model code numbering system is utilized. The version of the USBC containing both the VAC section numbers and the model code numbering is available from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and may also be accessed through the website of the Virginia Code Commission or by subscription to the VAC.

**101.1 Short title.** The Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code, Part I, Construction, may be cited as the Virginia Construction Code or as the VCC. The term “USBC” shall mean the VCC unless the context in which the term is used clearly indicates it to be an abbreviation for the entire Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code or for a different part of the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code.

**Note:** This code is also known as the 2012 edition of the USBC due to the use of the 2012 editions of the model codes.

**101.2 Incorporation by reference.** Chapters 2–35 of the 2012 International Building Code, published by the International Code Council, Inc., are adopted and incorporated by reference to be an enforceable part of the USBC. The term “IBC” means the 2012 International Building Code, published by the International Code Council, Inc. Any codes and standards referenced in the IBC are also considered to be part of the incorporation by reference, except that such codes and standards are used only to the prescribed extent of each such reference. In addition, any provisions of the appendices of the IBC specifically identified to be part of the USBC are also considered to be part of the incorporation by reference.

**Note 1:** The IBC references the whole family of International Codes including the following major codes:

2012 International Plumbing Code (IPC)  
2012 International Mechanical Code (IMC)  
2011 NFPA 70  
2012 International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC)  
2012 International Energy Conservation Code IECC)  
2012 International Residential Code (IRC)

Links to view more information:

<http://codes.iccsafe.org/Virginia.html>

<http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/index.php/va-building-codes.html>

**Note 2:** The International Residential Code is applicable to the construction of detached one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses as set out in Section 310.