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## **State offers building codes online**

*Codes ensure safety, consistency in construction*

(Salem) — Builders, design professionals, and inspectors as well as home remodeling do-it-yourselfers have a new online resource to help them with their projects.

The Department of Consumer and Business Services Building Codes Division now offers the state's residential, structural, and mechanical building codes online at [www.bcd.oregon.gov](http://www.bcd.oregon.gov).

“The codes set minimum construction standards for building safety and provide a consistent and predictable building environment,” said Mark Long, Building Codes Division administrator. “We are pleased that we can now offer Oregonians access to the codes that's as easy as turning on the computer.”

The codes available online are:

- The Oregon Structural Specialty Code, which covers structural elements such as framing, roof assemblies, and building entry and exit in commercial and public buildings.
- The Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code, which regulates the construction of mechanical installations, such as heating and cooling systems, and venting and ductwork in both residential and commercial buildings.
- The Oregon Residential Code, which covers construction standards in one- and two-family dwellings ranging from stair geometry to window requirements in bedrooms to the height of railings on the deck.

Oregon codes are based on national model codes, which are protected by copyright laws. Through an agreement with the International Code Council, the Building Codes Division will offer free “view only” access to the codes through its Web site. While builders and designers often purchase codebooks for reference, having the codebooks online makes the information more accessible to anyone working on a construction project.

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The Building Codes Division, part of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, provides building code development, administration, inspection, plan review, licensing, and permit services to the construction industry to help ensure the safe and effective construction of structures in Oregon.

DCBS, Oregon's largest regulatory agency, administers state laws and rules, and protects consumers and workers in the areas of workers' compensation, occupational safety and health, financial services, insurance, building codes, and targeted contracting opportunities for small business. For more information, visit [www.dcbs.oregon.gov](http://www.dcbs.oregon.gov).