

Residential Fire Sprinklers or Other Safety Measures for New Child Care Facilities

Overview

As of Jan. 26, 2022, new child care facilities located in a residential home have new code compliance options to consider when applying to the local building department. On Jan. 26, the Building Code Structures Board approved interim amendments to the 2019 Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC) allowing a choice between providing automatic fire sprinkler protection for the child care facility, or meeting other prescribed safety requirements.

Choices

New registered and certified family child care homes are required to comply with one of the following options:

1. Install a domestic residential automatic sprinkler system.
2. Comply with all of the following:
 - Child care areas are only located at grade level or a level with a direct exterior exit.
 - Ensure that no child passes within 3 feet horizontally of a permanent cooking appliance such as an oven or range when exiting, and that no child is required to pass through a storage room or a room that can be locked on their way to the required exterior exit.
 - Submit documentation to the building official verifying that the child care facility meets additional safety requirements specified by the Early Learning Division.

Where required

This requirement applies to **new child care facilities** as identified in ORS 329A, including newly certified or registered family child care homes.

This applies only to new construction or the new use of an existing home. If a home has not been previously approved for use as a child care facility, the home must comply with this requirement. If the home is approved – or was previously approved – for use as a child care facility, the home does not have to comply with this requirement.

Examples:

When this requirement **does** apply:

- Constructing a new home that will be used as a care facility.
- Opening a new care facility in a home not previously approved.
- Relocating a care facility to a different home not previously approved.

When this requirement **does not** apply:

- Currently operating a care facility in an approved home.
- Opening or reopening a care facility in a previously approved home.
- Changing licenses in an approved home.
- Changing ownership from one license to a new license in an approved home.
- Licensing exempt providers.

Questions?

For information about a specific project, contact the local building department: [Oregon.gov/bcd/lbdd](https://oregon.gov/bcd/lbdd).