



March 21, 2018

County Building Code Changes

What do they mean and how will they affect me?

Facts at a glance:

- Prior codes remain in force as of today
- The new rules will not be fully in place for two to four weeks
- Under the new ordinance, codes will be adopted but rural, residential property owners will be able to opt out of the building permit process
- These changes do not effect building projects within city limits or **ANY** commercial or industrial building projects
- Only property owners are eligible to opt-out. Contractors cannot apply on the property owner's behalf

QUESTION ONE: I HEARD THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS VOTED THIS WEEK TO CHANGE THE BUILDING CODE. IS THAT IN EFFECT NOW?

No. It is critical that our Community Development team has time to create the forms and craft the new procedures that will allow for a smooth transition and incorporate these changes. We expect to adopt the new ordinance and put these changes into effect in two to four weeks. The county will issue a press release when that occurs.

QUESTION TWO: DOES THIS MEAN THAT THERE WILL NO LONGER BE BUILDING CODES IN KOOTENAI COUNTY?

No. When these changes do take effect, the updated codes will be adopted and will apply to all construction projects in the county. However, rural, residential property owners will be able to take part in OR opt-out of the building permit process at the start of their project.

QUESTION THREE: WILL THIS APPLY TO ALL PROPERTIES?

No. This change applies only to properties in the unincorporated parts of Kootenai County – anything within city limits will not be affected by this change. Similarly, only rural property owners can opt-out for residential building or improvement projects; commercial and industrial projects will still follow the standard processes now in place.

QUESTION FOUR: WHEN THIS TAKES EFFECT, WILL I STILL HAVE TO FOLLOW SOME FORMAL PROCESS WHEN I AM BUILDING OR IMPROVING A RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE COUNTY?

Yes. A location permit will still be required and all land use and jurisdictional requirements from outside agencies will still apply. More information about this will be made available in a few weeks when the new ordinance and processes are officially adopted by the Board.