

Scope: The National Electrical Code (NEC) sets comprehensive standards for the safe installation of electrical wiring, equipment, and systems. For municipalities, the NEC helps prevent electrical fires, shocks, and other hazards through a structured and enforceable approach to electrical safety. Adoption of the NEC provides consistency across jurisdictions, ensuring that electrical systems in homes and businesses are designed and inspected to nationally accepted benchmarks. The NEC is the only code up for adoption that is produced by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

Significant Changes (including changes made in the 2020 version and the 2023 version, noted in parentheses on which year the change took effect):

The intent of the content below is not intended to capture each change to the text of the code for all items related to restructuring or moving content, updates to definitions/clarifications, or minor provisions with insignificant impact. More context can be provided upon request for any of the changes that have occurred in each of the code editions.

Chapter 1 — General

- Clarification given on how to properly torque connections (2020).

Chapter 2 — Wiring and Protection

- Updates to locations where arc-fault and ground-fault circuit protection is required (2020 & 2023).
- Surge protection devices are required in all dwelling unit types (2020).
- Exterior disconnecting means are required for one and two family dwellings (2020).
- New requirements for arc energy reduction and associated testing (2020).
- Limit of location for kitchen outlets in relation to kitchen islands and peninsulas (2020 & 2023).
- Laundry rooms are now included in areas that are required to have at least one light (2023).
- 10 Amp branch circuits are now allowed for select circuit types (2023).

Chapter 3 — Wiring Methods and Materials

Expansion fittings are now required for underground PVC installations (2023).

Chapter 4 — Equipment for General Use

- Limit of locations for receptacles in a certain zone near a bathtub or shower space (2020).
- Expanded locations of tamper-resistant outlets (2020).

Chapter 5 — Special Occupancies

[No significant changes]

Chapter 6 — Special Equipment

- GFCI protection extended to pool pump motors when replacing equipment (2020).

Chapter 7 — Special Conditions

[No significant changes]

Chapter 8 — Communications Systems

[No significant changes]

Chapter 9 — Tables

[No significant changes]