

BUILD IT RIGHT

Make your home healthier, more comfortable and affordable



**Starting a new
construction project?**



**Renovating
your home?**



**Managing DIY
home repairs?**

? Did you know?

Vermont has a minimum standard of energy efficiency requirements for all new and renovated single family and multi-family homes.

The Residential Building Energy Standards (or RBES) apply to all new homes and all additions, alterations and renovations to residential buildings three stories or less above grade (seasonal camps, unheated buildings, small renovations and some tiny homes are exempt).

The standards are designed to provide reductions in energy use and emissions over the life of a building, when compared with a similar building constructed without energy efficiencies.

♥ Why it matters

Homes that meet the energy efficiency standards are more comfortable, healthy and cost-effective to heat and cool. They also help the environment by reducing carbon pollution.

Homeowner benefits



Save \$\$ - reduce utility bills and avoid ongoing expensive repairs



Be warm & dry - make your home more comfortable and weather-resistant



Stay healthy - improve indoor air quality and avoid mold issues



Get \$\$ - qualify for incentives and rebates



Help protect the environment for your family - reduce fossil fuel pollution



Who can help?

► Town Energy Committee, Planning Commission or Zoning Administrator

► Vermont Energy Code Assistance Center: 1-855-887-0673

► **Efficiency Vermont** - energy efficient construction assistance and incentives: 1-888-921-5990

► **NEK Weatherization Assistance Program (NETO)** for income-eligible residents: 1-800-639-3212

THE ENERGY STANDARDS BEHIND A BETTER HOME

This is a simplified overview of the basic requirements of Vermont's Residential Building Energy Standards. Refer to the current Handbook for complete requirements, exceptions and technical details.

	Requirement	What it does for you
1	Air Sealing and Leakage	Reduces drafts, heat loss, and moisture problems.
2	Vapor Retarder	Helps manage moisture inside the walls.
3	Duct Location, Insulation, and Sealing	Improves air delivery and efficiency.
4	HVAC Efficiency and Balancing	Provides efficient heating and cooling performance.
5	Equipment Sizing	Properly sized equipment saves money and improves comfort and efficiency.
6	Programmable Thermostat	Smart technology that helps save energy automatically.
7	Fireplaces and Solid Fuel Appliances	Outdoor combustion air supply and tight-fitting doors ensure safety.
8	Exhaust Fans and Appliances	Removes moisture and pollutants while protecting indoor air quality.
9	Ventilation	Brings in fresh air and helps control indoor moisture.
10	Snow Melt System Controls	Limits unnecessary energy use.
11	Electric Systems	Sufficient electrical service to cover present and future needs.
12	Mechanical Piping and Hot Water Circulation	Reduces heat loss and saves hot water energy.
13	Lighting	High-efficiency lighting uses less energy.
14	Electric Heating Equipment	Provides efficient cold-climate heat pump technology and smart controls.
15	Pools, Hot Tubs, and Spas	Efficient controls and covers reduce energy use.
16	Electric Vehicle Charging	Supports EV-ready infrastructure.
17	Certification	Documents that the home meets required energy standards - attractive to future buyers.



**RBES Code
Handbook**

**USE THE CURRENT HANDBOOK
FOR FULL REQUIREMENTS,
DETAILS AND EXCEPTIONS.**