



City of Peterborough

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, April 19, 2017
Peterborough, ON --

Building Services Division/Ontario Building Code Updates for 2017

The City of Peterborough Building Services Division would like to advise the public, designers, consultants and contractors of updates which may impact building construction and building code enforcement within the City.

"Our goal is to ensure everyone is aware of the Ontario Building Code (OBC) updates as we approach the spring building season," advises Dean Findlay, Chief Building Official, "There may be some individuals or organizations that are unaware of recent changes to the OBC and ongoing general requirements, such as when a permit is required. We ask anyone involved in construction, especially homeowners, to familiarize themselves with the OBC and understand their responsibilities. The Building Services Division is always available to answer questions."

2017 Building Code Changes:

The following significant Building Code changes relating to energy efficiency and insulation of building envelopes are now in place for 2017. Highlights include:

- New prescriptive compliance packages are 15% more energy efficient than prior packages. This will impact exterior insulation values and continuity, slab insulation, window and door efficiency, skylights, space heating equipment, HRV's and domestic water heaters
- HRV or ERV recovery ventilators are now mandatory for all prescriptive compliance packages
- Drain water heat recovery units are now mandatory for all prescriptive compliance packages

A complete review of the amended Ontario Building Code is required to become fully informed on these and other changes. The Ontario Building Code is available at www.mah.gov.on.ca

Building Permits - Owner's Responsibility:

Whether construction is being done by the property owner or a contractor, the property owner is responsible for ensuring a building permit is obtained for work requiring a building permit on their property.

For contractor work requiring a building permit and being obtained on behalf of owner, property owners are advised to seek proof of the building permit issuance before work commences.

Plumbing Work Requiring a Permit:

Building owners are reminded to obtain building permits for plumbing work they do themselves (limited to work in a single family dwelling in which they reside), or seek proof of a building permit for work being done by a contractor (requires a master plumbers license) prior to commencing work.

Examples of plumbing renovation work requiring a building permit includes, but is not limited to: the installation of an on-demand water heater, a new bathroom and/or relocation of plumbing fixtures.

Plumbing work not requiring a building permit is limited to: replacement of individual plumbing fixtures remaining in the same location, localized modifications of drains, and general maintenance issues.

Illegal Sump Pump Connections:

Sump pump discharges tied directly into the city sanitary sewer are not permitted under the OBC, or Municipal By-law. If these conditions exist, the building owner must disconnect and re-direct to an approved exterior drywell or approved alternate system. Resulting work may require a building permit.

Lot Grading:

Owners, contractors and designers are reminded that lot grading and drainage associated with new buildings, additions and alterations must comply with the approved lot grading and drainage plans, as included in the approved building permit drawings. Where site conditions and/or building construction variances occur, revised lot grading and drainage plans require approval through the Building Services Division.

For more information, please contact the Building Services Division, City Hall, 500 George Street North, by email bldg@peterborough.ca or by phone 705-742-7777 ext. 1892.

This information is also available on the City of Peterborough's website www.peterborough.ca.

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For further information, media are invited to contact the undersigned:

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