

STRETCH CODE

The Stretch Code is an effective route to achieve 20% better energy efficiency in new residential and commercial buildings than the base energy code.

This code applies to:

- New residential buildings and existing residential buildings when undergoing a large addition or a major renovation.
- It also applies to new commercial buildings over 5,000 square feet.
- Additions to existing buildings that are large enough to require full code compliance are required to meet the Stretch code.
- Commercial renovations and historic buildings are exempt from the Stretch Code.

Builders are required to submit documentation showing compliance through a HERS rating system and thermal bypass checklist.

This is accomplished by having the structure reviewed and the envelope designed by a certified HERS rater. The rater will produce a report detailing the energy systems in the building and provide a HERS index score. These documents will be submitted with the permit application for the Building Inspectors review. The building will then be built as per the design and a final HERS test shall be conducted when the project is completed to verify its performance.

STRETCH CODE REQUIREMENTS

Insulation:

- Unfinished basement ceilings install R30 fiberglass batts or equivalent. Must be in contact with the subfloor above
- Exterior walls install R21 fiberglass batts or equivalent.
- Flat and sloped ceilings use R38 fiberglass batts or loose blown insulation where strapping is used. Must achieve minimum R38.

Air Sealing:

- Tubs or showers on outside walls require a complete air barrier in addition to the insulation *BEFORE* the installation of the unit. This can be house wrap, rigid insulation or spray foam insulation.
- Attic access must be weather stripped and insulated to match the R value of the adjacent attic.
- Doors to unconditioned basements should be solid core and completely weather stripped.

- Fireplace bump outs must be completely insulated and air sealed before the fireplace unit is installed. This can be achieved by installing sheetrock, rigid insulation of thermo ply. All edges must be sealed.

Mechanicals:

- All systems must meet the high efficiency standards and comply with the design criteria specified by the HERS rater.
- Furnaces must be minimum 95% AFUE.
- A/C condensers must be at least SEER 13.
- All ducts must be completely sealed and insulated with minimum R8.
- Where ducted ventilation is not present an HRV system or Energy Star rated bath fans would be required to meet mandatory ventilation requirements.
- Installation of energy efficient light bulbs and Energy Star rated kitchen appliances is required.