

## Code adoption 2023 Oregon Plumbing Specialty Code (OPSC)

### Purpose of the rule:

These rules adopt the 2023 Oregon Plumbing Specialty Code (OPSC), which is based on the 2021 OPSC/2021 edition of the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) with Oregon specific amendments.

### Citation:

Amends: OAR 918-750-0110  
Effective: Oct. 1, 2023.

### Background:

Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 455.020 and 455.110 require the division to adopt a state building code to govern the construction, reconstruction, alteration and repair of buildings and other structures. The law further requires the building code to contain uniform performance standards providing reasonable safeguards for the health, safety, welfare, comfort, and security of the residents of Oregon who are occupants and users of buildings, and to provide for the use of modern methods, materials, and maximum energy conservation. The division, with the approval of the appropriate board, may amend such codes, provided that it conforms to model building codes generally accepted and in use throughout the United States. Under ORS 447.020, the division, with the approval of the State Plumbing Board, adopts rules setting standards for plumbing, known as the OPSC. ORS 455.610 requires the division, with the approval of the Residential and Manufactured Structures Board, to adopt and amend as necessary, low-rise plumbing provisions related to the construction of residential dwellings three stories or less above grade. The low-rise plumbing provisions of the Oregon Residential Specialty Code (ORSC) are adopted in the OPSC.

### Summary:

The 2021 OPSC is based on the 2021 edition of the UPC with Oregon amendments. These rules are needed to update the current code by adopting and amending the 2021 OPSC with additional Oregon amendments. This amended code will be adopted as the 2023 OPSC. The following is a timeline of the code adoption process:

- The State Plumbing Board recommended that the division begin the process of developing and adopting the 2023 OPSC at its June 16, 2022 meeting.
- On Oct. 20, 2022, the State Plumbing Board appointed members for a code review committee to review the base code, existing Oregon amendments, public code proposals, alternate methods and code interpretations and prepare a recommendation for the code.
- The code review committee met and finalized its recommendations on Feb. 9, 2023.
- The State Plumbing Board reviewed and approved the committee's recommendation to be forwarded to the division for adoption at its April 20, 2023 meeting.
- The State Plumbing Board reviewed and approved further amendments to Section 707.9 of the code at its June 15, 2023 meeting.
- The Residential and Manufactured Structures Board reviewed and approved the committee's recommendation for the low-rise residential plumbing provisions at its July 12, 2023 meeting.
- A public rulemaking hearing was held on July 18, 2023 and the public comment period closed on July 28, 2023.

More information about the code adoption process for the 2023 OPSC is available on the division's website at: <https://www.oregon.gov/bcd/codes-stand/Pages/opsc-adoption.aspx>.

### Contact:

If you have questions or need further information, contact Andy Skinner, Plumbing Program Chief, at 503-373-7448, or [andrew.j.skinner@dcbs.oregon.gov](mailto:andrew.j.skinner@dcbs.oregon.gov).



---

## Code adoption 2023 Oregon Residential Specialty Code (ORSC)

---

### Purpose of the rule:

These rules adopt the 2023 Oregon Residential Specialty Code (ORSC). The 2023 ORSC is based on the 2021 edition of the International Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings (IRC), with Oregon specific amendments.

### Citation:

Amends: OAR 918-480-0005 and OAR 918-480-0010  
Effective date for the rules: Oct. 1, 2023.

### Background:

The division, with the approval of the Residential and Manufactured Structures Board, adopts statewide minimum construction standards for nonexempt residential dwellings three stories or less above grade, known as the ORSC.

### Summary:

These rules are needed to update the current code by adopting the 2021 IRC with Oregon specific amendments. This code will be adopted as the 2023 ORSC. The following is a timeline of the code adoption process:

- The Residential and Manufactured Structures Board recommended that the division begin the process of developing and adopting the 2023 ORSC at the board's meeting on April 6, 2022.
- On July 13, 2022, the Residential and Manufactured Structures Board appointed members for a code review committee to review the base code, existing Oregon amendments, public code proposals, alternate methods and code interpretations and prepare a recommendation for the code.
- The division solicited public code proposals until Aug. 28, 2023.
- The committee met five times and finalized its recommendation on Jan. 5, 2023.
- The Residential and Manufactured Structures Board reviewed and approved the committee's recommendation for the 2023 ORSC at the board's meeting on March 8, 2023.
- The Construction Industry Energy Board reviewed the energy provisions of the code at its March 14, 2023 meeting.
- The Mechanical Board reviewed the mechanical provisions of the code at its June 21, 2023 meeting.
- The Residential and Manufactured Structures Board reviewed and approved further amendments to the vapor retarder requirements in Section R506.2.3 for concrete slab-on-grade construction and the prescriptive basic wind speeds at its meeting on July 12, 2023.
- The division held a rulemaking hearing on July 18, 2023, and accepted public comment on the proposed rulemaking until July 28, 2023.

Once effective, the administrative and scope provisions of the 2023 ORSC (Chapter 1) will become mandatory. There will be a six-month phase-in period for the structural, energy, mechanical and fuel-gas provisions, where use of the 2021 ORSC or the 2023 ORSC will be permitted.

More information about the code adoption process for the 2023 ORSC is available on the division's website at: <https://www.oregon.gov/bcd/Pages/orsc-adoption.aspx>.

### Contact:

If you have questions or need further information, contact Tony Rocco, Structural Program Chief, [anthony.j.rocco@dcbs.oregon.gov](mailto:anthony.j.rocco@dcbs.oregon.gov).