

Checklist for a New House

Lighting: interior basic code 1 light or switched plug-in for each room

Types:

- O- pot lights
- O- hanging lights
- O- fans with lights
- O- sconces
- O- directional lights
- O- heat lamps
- O- tub/shower lights
- O- vanity lights
- O- stair lights
- O- occupancy lights
- O- illuminated lights
- O- cabinet (water & inside)

Switching: basic code, no room to be entered without a switch because of trip hazard

- O- single (1 pole)
- O- double (3 way)
- O- triple or more (4 way)
- O- pantry door switch
- O- remote controlled
- O- photo cell
- O- timer

Plug-ins (Receptacles)- electrical code simplified is 6 ft. from a doorway, 12 ft. between plug-ins, 15 ft. in hallways.

- O- exercise equipment
- O- laundry room(s), dryer, washer, and at least one more circuit plug-in

Kitchen(s) & Kitchenette(s): basic code, 3 ft. from edge and 6 ft. between

- O- range (electric/gas)
- O- wall oven(s) (electric/gas)
- O- fridge(s)
- O- freezer(s)
- O- microwave
- O- under counter lighting
- O- GFI within 4.5 ft. from sink
- O- island plug-ins (may need spacers to make room for)
- O- peninsula plug-ins (may need spacers to make room for)
- O- exhaust fan
- O- stove top (electric/gas)
- O- dishwasher(s)
- O- garburator (switch or pneumatic)
- O- appliances (on and inside)
- O- in cabinet lighting

Garage/Shop

- O- basic code is 1 plug-in per bay (may want more for convenience)
- O- overhead door(s) plug-ins (ceiling or wall)- overhead door(s) low voltage
- O- option for ceiling fans if ceiling is too high or exhaust fan for humidity
- O- heater (floor heat, forced air, tube)
- O- work bench plug-ins
- O- welder (Mig or Stick)
- O- compressor (120 or 240)
- O- Motor loads

Comforts and Security

- O- hot tub
- O- heat lamp(s)
- O- generator back-up (whole house, partial house, manual or automatic)
- O- doorbell (front, rear, etc.)
- O- Christmas lights
- O- fireplace(s) (gas, wood or electric - line and low voltage or remote controlled)
- O- security systems (hardwired or wireless)
- O- bathroom fans (moderate noise to super quiet) also (switched or automatic humidistat)
- O- wood fireplace fan for moving excess heat into furnace and then throughout house
- O- Jet tub
- O- whole house air exchange
- O- towel warmers
- O- attic lights

Outside

- O- basic code, 1plug for every doorway/deck
- O- basic code, 1 light for every door entrance
- O- yard lights on poles
- O- power to outbuildings, like sheds, shops, detached garages, greenhouse, barn, coup

- O- outside lights on switches, photocell, motion
- O- area lighting from house
- O- RV plug-ins if needed

Communication

- O- land line - telephone wire and ground wire or co-axial cable
- O- TV outlets inside(surface or recessed)
- O- Satellite type and direction
- O- internet (if different) and direction (or stick)
- O- phone outlets (or wireless)
- O- intercom systems
- O- music systems/speakers and switches
- O- theatre rooms/surround sound

Utilities

Water:

- O- metering
- O- well connections (distance from house)
- O- pump type - pressure tank or monodrive, etc.
- O- domestic hot water (gas, electric, boiler system) tank or tankless

Sewage and Drainage:

- O- lift pump(s)
- O- sump pump(s)
- O- grey water pump(s)
- O- alarms and backup systems

Heating:

- O- forced air furnace(s) (simple or baffled)
- O- single or multiple thermostats
- O- boiler systems with fan coils or floor heat or radiators
- O- floor heat - gas or electric
- O- electric space heating

Air Conditioning:

- O- air conditioner(s)
- O- ceiling fans
- O- attic fans

Ventilation:

- O- air exchange unit
- O- furnace fan connected to main bathroom exhaust fan

Service Entry

- O- meter base - on house or property line
- O- main panel - 100 Amp or 200 Amp
- O- sub panels (lower costs and prevent voltage drops)
- O- grounding wire and electrodes
- O- distance of wire between house and Grid
- O- underground wires and trench or overhead wires and mast
- O- Generator backup interconnections (manual or automatic)

Notes on Minimum Codes

1. Minimum code was never made for comfort.
2. Placement of plug-ins was made to prevent the all-too-common use of extension cords which over the years have started many house fires.
3. Placement of lights and switches was to prevent tripping over objects, not for actual function like cooking, reading or socializing.
4. Insurance companies have exceeded the minimum code standards. Examples include smaller houses that need only 60 Amps main breaker are raised to minimum 100Amps and some wire and wiring methods that are permitted by code are not allowed.