

# Napa County Building Officials Coalition

Striving to provide clear and consistent building code information and handouts for all Napa County jurisdictions. *(Please check with each jurisdiction for any local amendments.)*

H/O No. 0517-05

REV. 0717

## Window Replacement Policy

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide clarification for the building permit requirements related to window replacements or window retrofits.

Note: Homes located in the Wildland Urban Interface Areas (WUI) must also meet the requirements for applicable glazed assemblies if they were required at the time of original new construction. (After July 1, 2008)

### DEFINITIONS

**Window Replacement:** The replacement of one or more windows including window frames. This does not include glass replacement and/or repairs only in an existing window frame.

**Window Retrofit:** The replacement of one or more windows where a retrofit window will be installed utilizing the existing window frame(s).

**Like-for-like:** The replacement window is the same size, type and there are no alterations or changes to the existing window opening. The structural window frame, interior and exterior materials are not altered.

### POLICY

Historically, building permits have not been required for the replacement of broken or damaged window glazing. Permits are required for replacement and retro-fit windows as required per section 105.1 of the 2016 California Building Code.

### Policy Procedure

- A. Building permits are not required for the replacement of broken or damaged glazing within an existing window frame and is considered maintenance work. The installation or replacement of glazing shall be in accordance with new installations.



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B. A Building Permit is required to replace an existing window when any of the following conditions are met:

- 1) The existing window frames are removed and a new window and frame is installed in the existing rough window opening. In a bedroom, as long as the existing window complied with the building code at the time of installation, the new, same type window and rough opening size window will be considered as compliant. There is no increase in the level of hazard. Refer to Egress Window Table below to determine the requirements at the time of original installation.
- 2) The existing window and frame are removed and the rough window opening size is changed or altered. If this is a bedroom egress window, the window must comply with current Emergency Escape and Rescue Egress requirements. Framing plans and flashing details are required for new structural alterations when existing openings are altered.
- 3) The existing window and stops are removed, the existing frame is left in place and a new retro-fit window and frame is inserted within the existing window frame. If the window opening size is changed by this installation, it must meet current Emergency Escape and Rescue Egress requirements.
- 4) Replacement windows must meet current Climate Zone 2 California Energy requirements.
- 5) Like-for-like window replacement projects require a single inspection once all work has been completed. Any other window replacement project that involves the installation of flashing, opening alterations or similar construction requires a minimum of two (2) inspections. An in-progress inspection is required while windows are being installed and final inspection once all work is complete.

All window decals shall remain on window surfaces indicating the energy efficiency ratings of windows until a final building inspection is completed.



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## Egress Window Table

Date of Original Permit Application	Code in Effect	Section	Maximum Sill Height	Minimum Net Opening	Minimum Height	Minimum Width
Jun 11, 1962 through Apr 18, 1971	UBC 1961 and 67	3320	48 inches	5.0 sq. ft.	24 inches	24 inches
Apr 19, 1971 through Jul 5, 1977	UBC 1970, 73	1404	48 inches	5.0 sq. ft.	22 inches	22 inches
Jul 6, 1977 through Aug 15, 1983	UBC 1976	1404	44 inches	5.7 sq. ft.	24 inches	20 inches
Aug 16, 1983 through Dec 27, 1995	UBC 1982,85,88 and 1991	1204	44 inches	5.7 sq. ft.	24 inches	20 inches
Dec 28, 1995 through Dec 31, 2007	1994 UBC/1995 CBC, 98 CBC	310.4	44 inches	5.7 sq. ft.	24 inches	20 inches
Jan 1, 2008 through Dec 31, 2010	2007 CBC	1026	44 inches (bottom of clear opening)	5.7 sq. ft. (5.0 sq. ft. at the ground floor)	24 inches	20 inches
Jan 1, 2011 through Dec 31, 2013	2010 CBC/CRC	1029 and R310	44 inches (bottom of clear opening)	5.7 sq. ft. (5.0 sq. ft. at the ground floor)	24 inches	20 inches
Jan 1, 2014 through Dec 31, 2016	2013 CBC/CRC	1029 and R310	44 inches (bottom of clear opening)	5.7 sq. ft. (5.0 sq. ft. at the ground floor)	24 inches	20 inches
Jan 1, 2017 through Dec 31, 2020	2016 CBC/ CRC	1029 and R310	44 inches (bottom of clear opening)	5.7 sq. ft. (5.0 sq. ft. at the ground floor)	24 inches	20 inches



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