

# KNOW YOUR CODE

## A GUIDE TO THE OBC

2025 Edition

Issued in March 2025



*For Customer Assistance Call 1-800-328-4880*

© 2025 Thomson Reuters

This publication was created to provide you with accurate and authoritative information concerning the subject matter covered; however, this publication was not necessarily prepared by persons licensed to practice law in a particular jurisdiction. The publisher is not engaged in rendering legal or other professional advice and this publication is not a substitute for the advice of an attorney. If you require legal or other expert advice, you should seek the services of a competent attorney or other professional.

For authorization to photocopy, please contact the **Copyright Clearance Center** at 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923, USA (978) 750-8400, <http://www.copyright.com> or **West's Copyright Services** at 610 Opperman Drive, Eagan, MN 55123, [copyright.west@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:copyright.west@thomsonreuters.com). Please outline the specific material involved, the number of copies you wish to distribute and the purpose or format of the use.

Portions of this book are reproduced from the Ohio Building Code. Chapters 1 through 35, inclusive, of the Ohio Building Code designate and incorporate portions of the “2015 International Building Code,” a copyrighted work owned by the International Code Council, Inc. COPYRIGHT © 2017 BY INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL, INC. All rights reserved.

Portions of this book are reproduced from the Ohio Mechanical Code. Chapters 1 through 15, inclusive, of the Ohio Mechanical Code designate and incorporate portions of the “2015 International Mechanical Code,” a copyrighted work owned by the International Code Council, Inc. COPYRIGHT © 2017 BY INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL, INC. All rights reserved.

Portions of this book are reproduced from the Ohio Plumbing Code. Chapters 1 through 13, inclusive, of the Ohio Plumbing Code designate and incorporate portions of the “2015 International Plumbing Code,” a copyrighted work owned by the International Code Council, Inc. COPYRIGHT © 2017 BY INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL, INC. All rights reserved.

Portions of this book are reproduced from the Ohio Fire Code. The Ohio Fire Code designates and incorporates portions of the “2015 International Fire Code,” a copyrighted work owned by the Building Officials and Code Administrators International, Inc. COPYRIGHT © 2017 BY INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL, INC. All rights reserved.

Without advance written permission from the copyright owner, no part of the 2015 International Building Code, 2015 International Mechanical Code, 2006 International Plumbing Code or the 2015 International Fire Code may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including, without limitation, electronic, optical, or mechanical means (by way of example, and not limitation, photocopying, or recording by or in an information storage and retrieval system). For information on permission to copy material exceeding fair use, please contact: Permission Coordinator, 500 New Jersey Avenue, NW, 6th Floor, Washington, DC 20001-2070; phone: 1-888-ICC-SAFE (422-7233); fax: (202) 783-2348; e-mail: [leddin@iccsafe.org](mailto:leddin@iccsafe.org).

**ISBN: 979-8-350-23167-0**

# Introduction to the 2025 Edition

*Know Your Code: A Guide to the OBC* is a compendium of building requirements derived from the Ohio Building Code, Ohio Mechanical Code, Ohio Plumbing Code, Ohio Fire Code, National Electrical Code, the Residential Code of Ohio, and EPA standards, as well as relevant provisions of the Ohio Revised Code.

*Know Your Code* has value for architects, engineers, and other design professionals; contractors and construction managers; building officials, inspectors, and plans examiners; consultants, teachers, and administrators of education programs; and others who need a quick reference to the rules, standards, and requirements of the Building Code and related Codes in Ohio. Suitable for use either in the office or on the job, it is an alphabetical series of entries, from **Accessibility Guidelines** to **Yards**, each consisting of a concise restatement of the various applicable Code requirements.

## **Filing Instructions**

REMOVE and RECYCLE the 2024 edition from your shelf.

PLACE the new 2025 edition on your shelf.

## **Highlights**

This edition of *Know Your Code* presents updated and revised coverage of the following subjects:

- Building systems of temporary tents and membrane structures
- Lavatory fixtures and equipment
- Stairways and exits in daycare facilities

The Publisher



# How to Use This Publication

## Scope of Coverage

Municipal and other local building regulations are not included in *Know Your Code*. And, although the OBOA Ohio Residential Code is referenced, coverage is limited to overlapping technical requirements and does not include administrative requirements unique to each adopting jurisdiction.

## Organization and Format

Entries are arranged alphabetically, and the information is presented in outline form. The entries are followed by a collection of useful Reference Materials, including a Glossary and Tables of Use Group Classifications, and Sources for Referenced Documents.

For clarity and convenience, some entries are accompanied by tables, charts, or illustrations. For example, OBC Table 601, Fire Resistance Rating Requirements for Building Elements, is reprinted under **Construction Type—Classification of Buildings**; OBC Table 503, Allowable Height and Building Areas, is reprinted under **Building Areas**; and illustrations of guardrails and handrails are included in the entry on **Egress and Exits**.

## Sample Entry

Below is the entry for **VENEERS (1400)**, illustrating several features of the publication:

### VENEERS

- A. Glass veneers: See GLASS.
- B. Metal veneers (1405.11)
  - 1. Veneer must be corrosion-resistant on both sides.
  - 2. Caulk all joints and ventilate all panels. (1405.11.2)
  - 3. Fasteners maximum 24" o.c.
  - 4. Minimum veneer thickness of 0.0149".
  - 5. Bonding and grounding must comply with Chapter 27. (1405.11.4)
  - 6. Metal attachments cross-sectional area  $\leq$  that provided by W 1.7 wire, and able with their supports to resist horizontal force per WIND LOADS, but in no case less than 20 psf (0.958 kg/m<sup>2</sup>).

Items B.2 and B.5 are followed by parenthetical references to the OBC where the full text of the primary source requirement can be found. Item D.6 cross references with the entry for WIND LOADS.

### Brief Background on OBC

Prior to July 1, 1979, the rules of the Ohio Board of Building Standards were compiled in a document known as the *Ohio Building Code*, which was published first by the Board and later (beginning in 1975) by Banks-Baldwin (now West, a division of Thomson Reuters). On October 20, 1978, the Board adopted a rule, effective July 1, 1979, repealing most of the existing *Ohio Building Code* and adopting by reference, with special Ohio modifications, the "Basic Building Code/1978, Seventh Edition" and the "Basic Mechanical Code/1978, Third Edition," as published and copyrighted by Building Officials and Code Administrators International, Inc. (BOCA).

The resulting collection of model code sections and superseding Ohio provisions—together with the CABO Model Energy Code and the Ohio Plumbing Code became the "Ohio Basic Building Code" (OBBC). In the years since its original adoption, the Board amended the OBBC, primarily to incorporate subsequent changes to the model codes.

Following its August 14, 2001 public hearing, the Board adopted "The ICC International Building Code/2000, First Edition," along with the March 2001 "Supplement to the International Codes" and applicable errata, as published and copyrighted by International

Code Council, Inc. (ICC): the “International Mechanical Code—2000, Second Edition:” and the “International Plumbing Code—2000, Second Edition,” as published and copyrighted by ICC, again with modifications to conform with Ohio law. With this first-time adoption of these ICC International model codes, the resulting collection is once again known as the “Ohio Building Code” (OBC).

Subsequently, following its August 27, 2004, public hearing, the Board adopted the 2003 Edition of the “International Building Code,” the 2003 Edition of the “International Mechanical Code,” and the 2003 Edition of the “International Plumbing Code” as published and copyrighted by ICC and all applicable errata, with modifications to conform them to Ohio law. The Residential Code was last adopted in December 2018.

Following its November 13, 2009, and January 21, 2011, public hearings, the Board adopted the 2009 Editions of the “International Building Code”, the “International Mechanical Code” and the “International Plumbing Code” as published and copyrighted by ICC and all applicable errata, with modifications by the Ohio Board of Building Standards.

Following its April 26, 2012, public hearings, the Board adopted revisions to the Ohio Building Code in addition to adopting the 2009 edition of the “International Residential Code” as published and copyrighted by ICC and all applicable errata, with modifications by the Ohio Board of Building Standards.

Following its April 14, 2017 public hearing, the Board adopted the 2015 Editions of the “International Building Code”, the “International Mechanical Code” and the “International Plumbing Code” as published and copyrighted by ICC and all applicable errata, with modifications by the Ohio Board of Building Standards.

New editions of the Building, Mechanical and Plumbing Codes were adopted by the Ohio Board of Building Standards in August 2023, to become effective on March 1, 2024. Updates are provided by the Department of Commerce at: <https://com.ohio.gov/divisions-and-programs/industrial-compliance/boards/board-of-building-standards/building-codes-and-interpretations>.

The OBC is published by West in two formats—a two-volume set of *OBC and Related Codes*, and single-volume compilations of specific Codes to meet the needs of individual users (see Related Publications, below).

### **Cross References**

Cross references to OBC and other sources are provided throughout *Know Your Code*. A parenthetical reference without a prefix refers to the Building Code, and the form of the reference indicates whether the rule was modified by the Board or adopted from the ICC model code without modification. The former are citations to the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC)—e.g., 4101:2-1-11; the latter cite the ICC provision—e.g., 917.1. A citation preceded by “M” refers to a section of the Mechanical Code. A citation preceded by “P” refers to a section of the Plumbing Code. OAC 4101:4 refers to the Ohio Boiler Code; OAC 1301:7 refers to the Ohio Fire Code, which is promulgated by the Division of State Fire Marshal in the Department of Commerce.

Other references in *Know Your Code* are to sources for related requirements. These are listed in the Table of Sources for Referenced Standards in the Reference Materials section. Addresses and phone numbers are included for the benefit of users who wish to obtain the full text of referenced documents.

Cross references to other main entries are provided where applicable. These references are printed in CAPITAL LETTERS.

### **Related Publications**

Following is a list of other West publications that subscribers to the *Know Your Code* may find valuable for research and reference. To order any West publication, or to obtain further information, contact your local West Sales Representative or call our Customer Service Department toll-free at 1-800-328-9352.

- Ohio Building Code and Related Codes
- Ohio Building Code and Related Codes with Residential Code

## HOW TO USE THIS PUBLICATION

- Ohio Building Code: Building Code
- Ohio Building Code: Fire Code
- Ohio Building Code: Mechanical Code
- Ohio Building Code: Plumbing Code
- Ohio Building Code: Residential Code



# Table of Abbreviations

ACI .....	American Concrete Institute
ADAAG .....	Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines
AFF .....	above finished floor
AFPA .....	American Forest and Paper Association
AHA .....	American Hardboard Association
AISC .....	American Institute of Steel Construction
AISI .....	American Iron and Steel Institute
amp .....	ampere
ANSI .....	American National Standards Institute
ASCE .....	American Society of Civil Engineers
ASME .....	American Society of Mechanical Engineers
ASTM .....	American Society of Testing Materials
AWPA .....	American Wood Preservers Association
BOCA .....	Building Officials and Code Administrators International, Inc.
Btu .....	British Thermal Unit
CABO .....	Council of American Building Officials
cfm .....	cubic feet per minute
cu. ft. ....	cubic foot
cu. in. ....	cubic inch
cu. yd. ....	cubic yard
ESTA .....	Entertainment Services and Technology Association
F .....	Fahrenheit
FDN .....	foundation
FHAG .....	Fair Housing Accessibility Guidelines
FRTW .....	fire retardant treated wood
gal. ....	gallon
gpm .....	gallons per minute
HPM .....	hazardous production materials
HPVA .....	Hardwood Plywood Veneer Association
hr. ....	hour
HVAC .....	heating, ventilating, and air conditioning
kVA .....	Kilo Volt-amps
lb. ....	pound
LP .....	liquified petroleum
NEC .....	National Electrical Code
NFPA .....	National Fire Protection Association
no. ....	number
NP .....	not permitted
OAC .....	Ohio Administrative Code
OBC .....	Ohio Building Code
OBC .....	Ohio Building Code and Related Codes (West)
OBBS .....	Ohio Board of Building Standards
o.c. ....	on center

OFC .....	Ohio Fire Code
plf .....	pounds per lineal foot
psi .....	pounds per square inch
psig .....	pounds per square inch, gravity
PVC .....	polyvinyl chloride
R.C. ....	Ohio Revised Code
SJI .....	Steel Joist Institute
sq. ft. ....	square foot
sq. in. ....	square inch
TMS .....	The Masonry Society
U .....	unlimited
UL .....	Underwriters Laboratories
< .....	less than
≤ .....	less than or equal to
> .....	greater than
≥ .....	greater than or equal to



**THOMSON REUTERS**  
**WESTLAW™**

**MOST PREFERRED ONLINE LEGAL RESEARCH SERVICE**

Thomson Reuters Westlaw has been voted the #1 Best Online Legal Research vendor year-after-year by industry professionals. That's because we continually invest more than any other online legal research provider in our people and technology where it matters most. As a result, you find exactly what you need quickly and confidently.

- Build the strongest argument with the most comprehensive collection of legal content
- Deliver better results confidently with WestSearch®, the only search engine designed specifically for the law
- Rely on the most current version of the law with proprietary editorial enhancements
- Access your legal research anytime, anywhere with the free Westlaw apps

---

LEARN MORE: [legal.thomsonreuters.com](http://legal.thomsonreuters.com)

SIGN ON: [westlaw.com](http://westlaw.com)

24/7 REFERENCE ATTORNEYS: 1-800-REF-ATTY (733-2889)

## THOMSON REUTERS PROVIEW™

**This title is one of many now available on your tablet as an eBook.**

Take your research mobile. Powered by the Thomson Reuters ProView™ app, our eBooks deliver the same trusted content as your print resources, but in a compact, on-the-go format.

ProView eBooks are designed for the way you work. You can add your own notes and highlights to the text, and all of your annotations will transfer electronically to every new edition of your eBook.

You can also instantly verify primary authority with built-in links to WestlawNext® and KeyCite®, so you can be confident that you're accessing the most current and accurate information.

**To find out more about ProView eBooks and available discounts, call 1-800-328-9352.**

## RELATED PRODUCTS

---

Thomson Reuters thanks you for subscribing to this product. Should you have any questions regarding this product please contact Customer Service at 1-800-328-4880 or by fax at 1-800-340-9378. If you would like to inquire about related publications or place an order, please contact us at 1-800-328-9352.



Thomson Reuters  
610 Opperman Drive  
Eagan, MN 55123

[legal.thomsonreuters.com](http://legal.thomsonreuters.com)