

# COUNTY OF KANE

*Public Information Office  
Kane County Board Office*



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## New Year Brings New Building Codes for the Unincorporated Areas of Kane County

GENEVA, IL- Beginning in January 2022, new building codes will take effect for all unincorporated areas of Kane County and the villages of Big Rock, Kaneville and Virgil. Kane County provides building permit administration, plan review, and inspection services for these three villages.

The Kane County Board approved the new codes at its November meeting, adopting the 2021 editions of the International Code Council (ICC) Codes effective January 1, 2022 for all building permit applications received on or after that date.

Kane County Building Officer Mark VanKerkhoff noted that while there are many small changes to the building codes, one interesting change is that lockable safety pool covers may be used to satisfy the barrier requirements (typically a fence and door alarms) for in ground swimming pools.

Kane County Board Member John Martin, chair of the Board's Development Committee, said the new codes will help to protect its residents and also benefit builders by ensuring its building regulations are aligned with other local communities and those throughout the nation.

"These new codes will benefit our residents in unincorporated Kane County and the villages of Big Rock, Kaneville and Virgil, by ensuring that minimum requirements are met for safe buildings which also may positively affect insurance rates for residents," Martin said.

The Insurance Services Office (ISO) rates counties and cities on the thoroughness of plan reviews and inspections as well as the current status of their adopted building codes. Every five years, all cities and counties undergo a review titled the Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS). Each local building department is rated upon factors such as: current editions of codes adopted, staffing levels and qualifications, thoroughness of plan review and inspections and training and experience of inspectors.

Adopting updated codes helps communities maintain or improve their BCEGS classification, which some insurance providers use to give residents and businesses credits to lower insurance premiums.

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“In addition, it will benefit the builders by adopting the same codes as other communities and also benefit staff with professional support from the International Code Council,” Martin added.

The following updated codes will take effect January 1, 2022:

- 2021 International Residential Code
- 2021 International Building Code
- 2021 International Existing Building Code
- 2021 International Mechanical Code
- 2020 National Electric Code
- Illinois Energy Conservation Code (2018 International Energy Conservation Code currently in effect statewide, soon to be updated to 2021)
- Illinois State Plumbing Code (2014 edition currently in effect statewide)
- Illinois Accessibility Code (2018 edition currently in effect statewide)

For questions, comments or additional information, email [KaneBuildingDeptPermits@co.kane.il.us](mailto:KaneBuildingDeptPermits@co.kane.il.us).