

# 10 COMMON BUILDING CODE QUESTIONS

**1. Isn't it true that the buildings you are referencing are in compliance with current building codes?**

Yes, they are in compliance with current building codes. However, they are built to the minimum legal level permitted. If codes are changed, they will have the opportunity to build stronger, more reliable, more durable and safer buildings that exceed expectations.

**2. Do building code changes benefit one building material over another?**

They do not, they prioritize safer living conditions and non-combustible materials.

**3. Who is calling for building code changes?**

Residents, concerned public policy organizations, fire service professionals, engineers, architects and industry professionals.

**4. What is the opinion of the fire safety community on these building codes?**

Stronger building codes mean safer buildings, which means less risk for firefighters and residents, and enhanced safety and security for the community. Fire safety professionals are publicly speaking out on the risk of building with combustible materials.

**5. What buildings will these codes apply to?**

New multi-family and mixed-use buildings over a certain size; nothing currently under construction or previously constructed.

**6. Has there been an increase in wood-framed fires recently?**

There has been an increase in wood-framed buildings being built, and there has been an increase in them burning down as well.

**7. Will these building code changes affect insurance rates for residents?**

Data suggests that building insurance rates will be lower for mid-rise apartment buildings constructed with non-combustible materials instead of wood.

**8. What are the costs associated with these changes, and how will that impact developers?**

Building with resilient materials saves costs in the long run due to enhanced durability and by using less materials. Building with concrete is also inherently more energy efficient, which will also save money in the long term.

**9. How will this impact affordable housing development?**

Safer building standards impact all communities, yet low- and moderate-income residents often occupy low- to mid-rise developments and are most affected by these policies. These changes will ensure safety and long-term cost savings.

**10. What areas around the country have enacted changes similar to this?**

New York City, Chicago, Sandy Springs and Tucker, Georgia. After Hurricane Andrew, Florida enforced stronger building codes in order to protect their communities.

If you're not building with concrete, it might be time to start.

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