

Inspections & Zoning Update

Volume 4 Issue 2

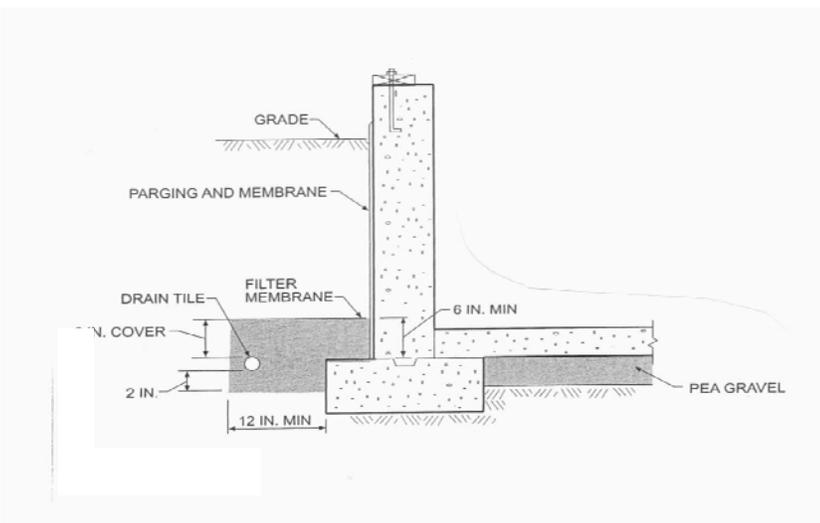
Summer 2009

BUILDING CODE & ZONING NEWS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY TROUGHOUT CATAWBA COUNTY

Building Code

Foundation Drain Requirements

The North Carolina Residential Building Code requires that a foundation drain be installed around all concrete or masonry foundations that retain earth and enclose habitable or usable spaces located below grade. Drain tiles, gravel or crushed stone drains, perforated pipe or other approved alternate method systems shall be installed at or below the area to be protected and shall discharge by gravity or mechanical means to an approved drainage system. Gravel or crushed stone drains with or without pipe shall extend at least 1 foot beyond the outside edge of the footing and 6 inches above the top of the footing and be covered with an approved filter membrane fabric/material. The drain shall be placed on a minimum 2 inch bed of gravel at least one sieve size larger than the openings in the drain pipe and covered with not less than 6 inches of the same material.



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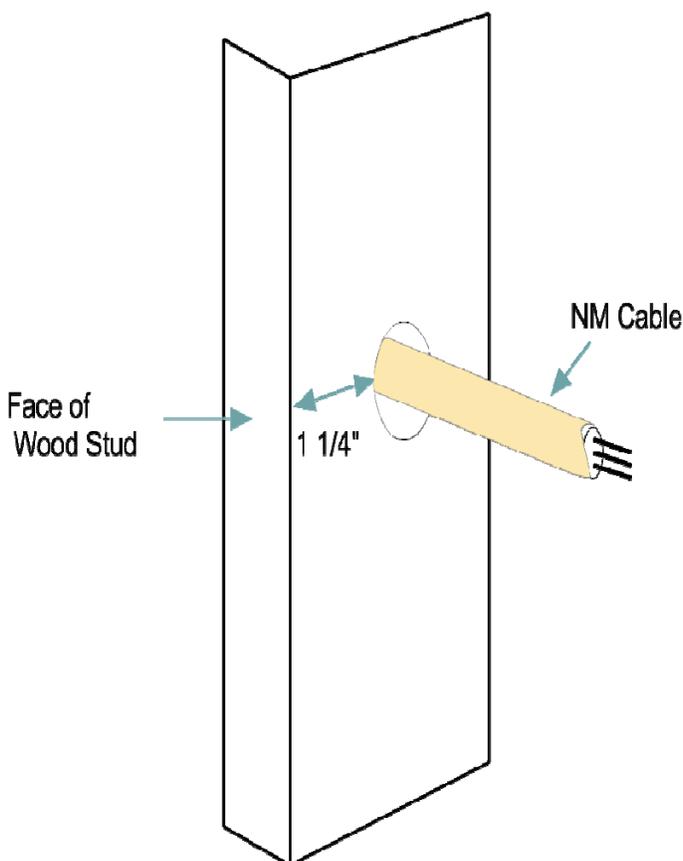
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Foundation Drain Required

Electrical Code News

Multi-wire Branch Circuits & Bored Holes

A close look at section 210.4(B) and 300.4(A)(1) of the 2008 edition of the National Electrical code will reveal some requirements that are being overlooked causing delays in completion of projects. When utilizing multi-wire branch circuits as wiring methods allowed in section 210.4 you must remember to protect these circuits with the appropriate multi-pole breakers. Section 210.4(B) requires all ungrounded conductors of a multi-wire branch circuit be simultaneously disconnected. Now a look into section 300.4(A)(1) which covers cables installed in bored holes in joist, rafters, or wood members. The simple mistake of choosing the wrong size drill for the job will cause the work to be noncompliant even before the first cable is placed in the hole. Section 300.4(A)(1) requires that the nearest edge of the bored hole cannot be closer than 1.25 inches from the nearest edge of the wood member. A few minutes of your time to review these two sections of the code may reduce delays in the completion of a job and expand your knowledge and understanding of the code.



Typical Multi-pole Breaker

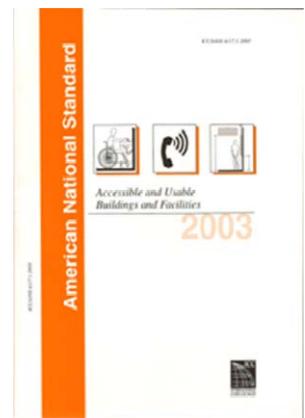
Plan Review Code News

Accessibility Code Transition

On January 1st, 2010, both the state and local jurisdictions will begin enforcing the 2009 NC Building Code Ch. 11 and the 2003 edition of ANSI A117.1. The 2002 NC Accessibility Code will remain in effect until the day of adjournment of the state legislature's current session. On June 9th, 2009, the NC Building Code Council voted to allow a transition period between the current NCAC and the "new" ANSI A117.1. The transition will extend from the time the legislature adjourns until December 31st, 2009. During that time designers will have the option of using either code.

In addition to ANSI A117.1, the design and construction communities should familiarize themselves with the requirements of the following sections of the 2009 NCBC; section 1007 (Accessible Means of Egress), Chapter 11 (Accessibility), section 3409 (Accessibility for Existing Buildings) and Appendix E (Supplementary Accessibility Requirements). The 2003 edition of ANSI A117.1 can be ordered through the International Code Council at their website at www.iccsafe.org.

Building Services staff will make every effort to assist our customers with this transition and are available for questions. Further questions may be directed to Laurel W. Wright, Chief Accessibility Code Consultant, NCDOT/OSFM at (919) 661-5880 Extension 247.



Mechanical Code News

Grease Duct Testing

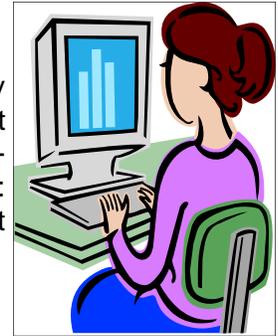
New to the 2009 NC Mechanical Code is a light test for grease ducts. Section 506.3.2.5 Grease duct test, states "Prior to the use or concealment of any portion of a grease duct system, a leakage test shall be performed in the presence of the code official." According to the Mechanical Code, ducts shall be considered to be concealed where installed in shafts or covered by coatings or wraps that prevent the ductwork from being visually inspected on all sides. This section also requires the permit holder to be responsible for providing the necessary equipment to perform the grease duct leakage test. A light test or an approved equivalent test method shall be performed to determine that all welded and brazed joints are liquid tight. A light test shall be performed by passing a lamp having a power rating of not less than 100 watts through the entire section of duct work. The lamp shall be open on all sides so as to emit light equally in all directions perpendicular to the duct walls.

This test shall be performed for the entire duct system, including the hood-to-duct connection. The ductwork shall be permitted to be tested in sections, provided that every joint is tested.



Catawba County Permit Center News

Permits Issued from January 2009 through March 2009: The Catawba County Permit Center issued a total of 1,576 permits in the last quarter, with a total cost of construction of \$18,606,942. There were 41 new single-family dwelling permits issued during this same time period. A few of the larger projects were: Fedex Freight Facility, Veterans Administration Medical Office, CVCC Student Center and CVS Pharmacy.



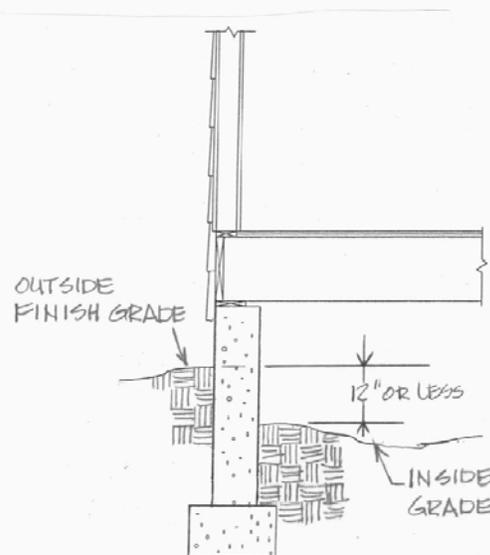
Permit Center Software: The Catawba County Permit Center has added two new features for contractors. The first feature is the ability to schedule inspections online. It is necessary for the contractor to visit the Catawba County Permit Center website and printout an application form for internet access. Once the form is completed, it can be faxed to the Permit Center for processing. The Permit Center will create the new access and then email the contractor a username and password. The contractors can then return to the Permit Center website and begin using the online system. They will also find step by step instructions on how to use the system.

The second new feature for contractors is the ability to make payments on their Catawba County accounts online. This new system allows the contractor to search for their permit accounts, and pay for an individual permit(s) or pay the balance of the account online by using either a credit card or E-check. The system is maintained by Govolutions, which is a vendor that provides this service for many different state and federal agencies across the country. They have the most up-to-date security protocols available to insure the safety of the system users.

(Building Code News Continued from Page 1)

The only exceptions to installing a foundation drain are:

- (1) When the foundation is installed on well-drained ground or sand-gravel mixture soils according to the Unified Soil Classification System ie Group I Soils, per Table R405.1.
- (2) When the interior grade is less than 12 inches below the exterior grade. (See Illustration)



Foundation Drain not Required

Local Government Contacts

Catawba County Planning & Zoning

Ph. 828-465-8380 / Fax 828-465-8484

Catawba County Building Services Safety Inspections

Ph. 828-466-5130 / Fax 828-322-6814

Catawba County Fire Marshall

Ph. 828-465-8230 / Fax 828-464-4820

Catawba County Environmental Health

Ph. 828-465-8270 / Fax 828-465-8276

Catawba County Erosion Control

Ph. 828-465-8161

Catawba County Permit Centers

Ph. 828-465-8399

Fax 828-465-8962 *Newton* / Fax 828-322-6814 *Hickory*

City of Claremont Zoning

Ph. 828-459-7009 / Fax 828-459-0596

City of Claremont Fire Department

Ph. 828-459-9296

City of Conover Zoning

Ph. 828-464-1191 / Fax 828-465-5177

City of Conover Fire

Ph. 828-464-1295 / Fax 828-464-1253

City of Hickory DAC/Zoning

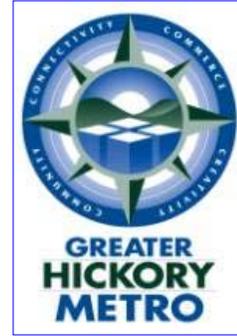
Ph. 828-323-7556 / Fax 828-323-7474

City of Hickory Fire

Ph. 828-322-7522 / Fax 828-323-7476

City of Newton Zoning

Ph. 828-465-7400 / Fax 828-465-7412



Building Services Division

100-A SW Blvd

PO Box 389

For additional information regarding building codes and services in Catawba County please visit the Catawba County website at <http://www.catawbacountync.gov/depts/u&e/building.asp>

For additional assistance please contact the following personnel:

Armin Wallner, Chief Building Services Official

828.217.1091 or Awallner@catawbacountync.gov

Joel Herman, Assistant Chief Building Services Official

828. 312.5713 or joelh@catawbacountync.gov

Brandon Lewis, Plan Review Supervisor

828.217.0463 or Blewis@catawbacountync.gov

David Smith, Permit Center Supervisor

828.217.3037 or dsmith@catawbacountync.gov

Reid Goforth, Eastern Area Supervisor

828.312.5709 or reid@catawbacountync.gov

Jeff Hinkle, Western Area Supervisor

828.217.1034 or Jhinkle@catawbacountync.gov