



## **Manitoba's new Building and Plumbing Code Amendments on Energy and Water Efficiency**

On October 15, 2010, Labour Minister Jennifer Howard, and the minister responsible for the Office of the Fire Commissioner announced that Manitoba is implementing changes to the building and plumbing codes that will increase energy and water efficiencies as well as make Manitoba homes healthier. These changes are the result of extensive consultations by the Office of the Fire Commissioner involving new homebuilders, contractors and technical experts.

The new efficiencies will be incorporated into new construction and homes undergoing extensive renovations. Building code changes include:

- specifying minimum energy-efficiency requirements for windows,
- eliminating the pilot light in gas fireplaces,
- increasing the required level of attic insulation to R50,
- requiring a minimum 94 per cent fuel-efficiency rating for furnaces,
- specifying a mid-efficient heat-recovery ventilator, and
- introducing energy-modelling software that will allow builders to model alternatives to the code requirements.

Changes to the plumbing code allow for reduced maximum-flow rates in residential water devices such as toilets and shower heads. In addition, they will allow the reuse of non-potable (grey) water for other applications around the home if it meets the Canadian Standards Association grey water standard that is expected to be released in December.

Amendments to the Manitoba Building Code and Manitoba Plumbing Code will take effect Dec.

1. For more information, contact the Office of the Fire Commissioner at 204-945-3322, 1-800-282-8069 (toll-free) or [www.firecomm.gov.mb.ca](http://www.firecomm.gov.mb.ca).

For the Government News release on the new Building and Plumbing Regulations under the Manitoba Building and Plumbing Codes, click here.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=month&item=9961>

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Q: My new home is already being built or I have just signed a housing contract before December 1, 2010; will I need to comply with the new requirements?

A: The Energy and Water Efficiency Regulations come into effect December 1, 2010, as long as your BUILDING PERMIT is dated before that time, you will not be required to comply new Regulation. The one exception is those houses which have a signed building contracts dated before December 1, 2010. In these cases, the Manitoba Homebuilders are submitting lists of their signed housing contracts to the Office of the Fire Commissioner, and the homes listed will be exempt from the new requirements. The homeowner is welcome to negotiate the new requirements into their building contracts, however there will be costs associated with these negotiations.

There have also been some product supply issues for furnaces and HRV's in Manitoba and the Province has had to postpone the enforcement of 94% AFUE Furnaces and the mandatory installation of HRV's in new homes until April 1, 2011.

2 Q: Where can I find copies of the new Regulations?

A: For online copies of the new Regulations, click here:

Manitoba Building Code Amendment - <http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/2010/142.pdf>

Manitoba Plumbing Code Amendment - <http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/2010/143.pdf>