



December 5, 2025

Builders and Contractors,

The City of Altoona has completed the process of adopting new construction codes. The previously adopted code was the 2018 series of codes published by the International Code Council (ICC). We have updated to the 2024 cycle of the ICC-published Building and Fire codes, the 2024 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC), the 2024 International Mechanical Code (IMC), and the 2023 National Electrical Code (NEC). The following chapters of the City Ordinance were amended to reflect this adoption:

[CHAPTER 155 – 2024 Building Code](#)

[CHAPTER 156 – 2024 IMC and NFPA 58/54](#) Currently adopted State Mechanical Code

[CHAPTER 157 – 2024 Uniform Plumbing Code](#) Currently adopted State Plumbing Code

[CHAPTER 158 – 2023 NEC Electrical Code](#) Currently adopted State Electrical Code

[CHAPTER 161 – 2024 Fire Code](#)

[CHAPTER 162 – 2024 Housing Code](#)

This adoption will affect the construction of any structures with a permit application date of January 1, 2026 or later. Please see the list below of the substantial changes to the building code.

1. Section 302.13 will no longer be deleted. Fire protection of floors will now be required, similar to other municipalities that require sheetrock be added to ceilings in basements.
2. Exterior handrails/guardrails such as on decks, porches, and stairs, will be required to be installed per 2024 IRC requirements. Notching 4x4 posts will not be allowed, and all structural components of guardrails will be required to be anchored to the deck joists per the IRC requirements.
3. Designed snow load will increase from 30 psf to 33 psf for all residential construction.
4. All interior residential alterations, remodels, and additions will require the installation of interconnected smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms per the requirements of the IRC.
5. All mechanical, plumbing, and electrical codes will adhere to the State of Iowa adopted code cycles and amendments. Please be aware there may be City amendments that are more restrictive that will also need to be followed. Those amendments can be found on the City of Altoona website and the permit portal.
6. All properties are required to have a passing final grade inspection before installation of any permanent ground cover. If a passing final inspection is not performed prior to installation of ground cover, the ground cover will be required to be removed.

If there are any questions regarding updated codes or acceptable building methods, please feel free to contact the Building Department with any questions.

Thank you,



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Certified Building Official



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