

BUILDING SAFETY MONTH 2025

50 YEARS OF THE ONTARIO BUILDING CODE

1975 - 2025

The Government of Ontario introduced the first Ontario Building Code (OBC) in 1975 to promote public safety through the application of uniform building standards. The OBC establishes technical requirements for all building construction and demolition in the province.

Building Officials have the important job of enforcing the building code and ensuring that construction and renovations meet safety and quality standards.

FACT

The 2024 OBC is more than double the length compared to the 1975 Building Code, growing from 357 pages to over 1200.

KEY CHANGES OVER THE LAST 50 YEARS:

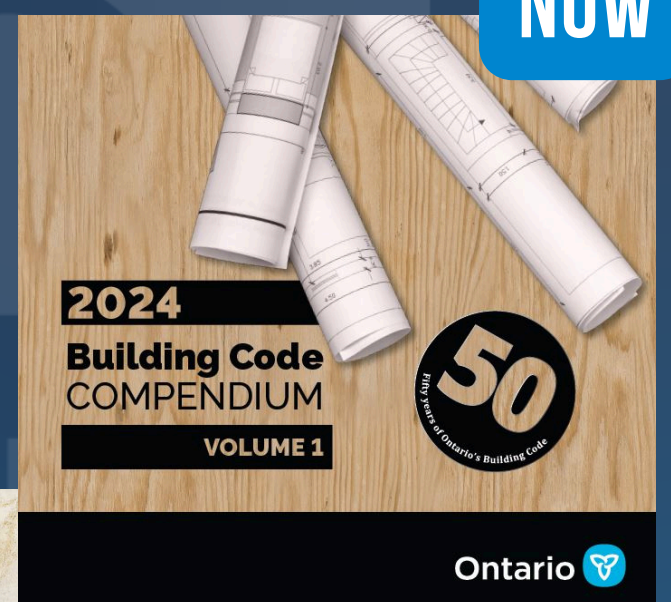
- ✓ Barrier-free accessibility requirements
- ✓ Enhanced fire safety measures
- ✓ Energy efficiency standards
- ✓ Climate resilience measures & MORE!



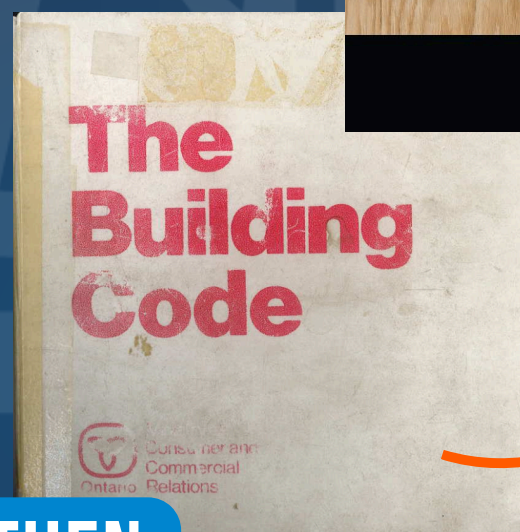
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ONTARIO
BUILDING OFFICIALS
ASSOCIATION

NOW



THEN



DID-YOU-KNOW

Since the first OBC was published in 1975, it has undergone 7 full new editions and 120 interim amendments. The 2024 OBC has over 2000 changes from the previous code.

WWW.OBOA.ON.CA/BUILDINGSAFETYMONTH

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BUILDING OFFICIALS

ARE THE GUARDIANS OF A BETTER BUILT ONTARIO

Building Officials have the important job of enforcing the building code and ensuring that construction and renovations meet safety and quality standards.

FACT

BUILDING OFFICIALS ARE INTEGRAL TO PROTECTING PUBLIC & COMMUNITY SAFETY.

The role of a building official goes beyond inspections and vary from Entry Level to Senior-Level. These important roles include plan reviews, zoning compliance, enforcement of fire & safety regulations and more.

ONTARIO GOAL: 1.5 MILLION NEW HOMES BY 2031

Building Officials jobs are in-demand.



Looking for a job? Learn more about becoming a Building Official on the OBOA website. You can also check out OBOA's [Job Board](#) for Building Official roles in your local municipality.



DID-YOU-KNOW

In the early days, building enforcement was informal, handled by local by-law officers with little training. Without standardized codes, inspections were conducted based on basic safety concerns. With the introduction of the building code, professional building inspectors became necessary. As the Building Code grew, so did the complexity of the role of a Building Official.

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ENHANCING BUILDING CODE KNOWLEDGE

As the Ontario Building Code grew, Building Official jobs became more complex and specialized. Training and Certification are essential for upholding building safety standards.

FACT

BCIN requirements were introduced in 2005 to ensure that individuals involved in building design and inspection meet safety standards established by the OBC.

TOP TIER TRAINING & CERTIFICATION

OBOA continues to enhance our course content to ensure it reflects the latest regulations of the Ontario Building Code. 2024 OBC courses are available.

GETTING CERTIFIED:

Certified Building Code Official (CBCO) and Building Code Qualified (BCQ) are career-boosting voluntary designations that go above and beyond MMAH requirements.



Check out the OBOA Training Calendar and Enhance Your Building Code Knowledge!

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CONTINUING EDUCATION:

OBOA's Continuing Professional Development Program (CPDP) allows members to maintain their designations and is rich in both technical and leadership training.

DID-YOU-KNOW

OBOA became a certified educator in 1994 and trains approximately 2000 people per year.

OBOA now offers over 25 different courses.

BUILDING SAFETY MONTH 2025

FARM BUILDINGS IN THE 2024 OBC

Updates to the Farm Building Code in the 2024 OBC reflect Ontario's dedication to advancing farm building standards, ensuring they align with modern safety and operational requirements.

FARM BUILDINGS MAY NOW REQUIRE:

- ✓ SPRINKLERS
- ✓ EMERGENCY LIGHTING
- ✓ FIRE ROUTES
- ✓ ADDITIONAL EXIT DOORS
- ✓ FIRE ALARMS
- ✓ FIRE SEPARATIONS
- ✓ FLAME SPREAD RATINGS OF FINISHES IN EXITS

DID-YOU-KNOW

Before 1981, farm buildings were generally regulated under the standard Ontario Building Code, with very few specific provisions for agricultural structures. It wasn't until 1981 where the OBC established design and safety requirements for farm buildings specifically. There were several developments made to Farm Building Code over the years but the 2024 Ontario Building Code introduces significant updates for farm buildings, aiming to align with modern agricultural practices and enhance safety standards.

NOW IN THE FARM BUILDING CODE:

- FLEXIBILITY OF CONCEALED ATTIC SPACE SIZES
- NON-AGRICULTURAL OCCUPANCIES PERMITTED

NEW TO OBOA:

PART 2 -
FARM BUILDING COURSE

Register Online:
www.oboa.on.ca/training



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