

INFORMATION BULLETIN

IB-056

Eff: 01-01-2020 Rev: 01-27-2025

Residential Bathroom Remodel

The purpose of this Information Bulletin (IB) is to assist homeowners and contractors with some of the most common code requirements and frequently asked questions associated with bathroom remodels for one- and two-family dwellings. A construction permit is required for bathroom remodels that include the removal, replacement, and/or relocation of showers, tubs or lavatories (sinks) or replacement/alteration to the electrical and/or exhaust fan. A construction permit is not required for re-facing of the existing bathroom cabinets. If a construction permit is required, it must be obtained prior to the start of the remodel.



FOOTNOTE:

1. This figure is for information and reference only and should not solely be used or relied upon as a substitute for construction documents (i.e., plans and specifications) prepared for each project by a design professional (i.e., architects, engineers, etc.).
2. The requirements are based on the 2019 Edition of the California Electrical Code (CEC), California Residential Code (CRC), California Mechanical Code (CMC), California Plumbing Code (CPC), California Energy Code (CEC), and California Green Building Standards Code (CGBSC).

Type of Fixture	Non-Compliant Fixture	Water-Conserving Fixture [CalGreen 4.303]
Water Closet (Toilet)	More than 1.6 gallons/ flush	Required 1.28 gallons/ flush
Showerhead	More than 2.5 gallons/ minute	Required 1.8 gallons/ minute at 80 psi
Faucet-Bathroom	More than 2.2 gallons/ minute	Required 1.2 gallons/ minute at 60 psi

LIGHTING:

- No electrical fixtures within 3' horizontally and 8' above bathtub/shower. Recessed lighting at bathtub/shower shall be suitable for damp locations and provided with a cover. CEC 410.10(D)
- Bathroom lighting shall have at least one high efficacy luminarie or controlled by an occupancy sensor or vacancy sensor; it shall have a manual "On" switch. CE_nC 150.0(k)2.1
- Recessed luminaires shall be high efficacy and not be screw based. Luminaires installed in an insulated ceiling shall be I.C. (insulation contact) rated, AT (airtight), and sealed and/or gasketed between ceiling and housing. CE_nC 150.0(k)1.C

MECHANICAL:

- Each bathroom shall be mechanically vented, be ENERGY STAR compliant, terminate outside the building, controlled by a humidity control, and capable of manual or automatic adjustment of relative humidity between ≤ 50% to a max of 80%. Exhaust fans shall be capable of providing a min of 50 cfm intermittently or 25 cfm continuous ventilation. CMC 402.5 & Table 403.7, CGBSC 4.506.1, CRC 303.3
- Back draft dampers are required on bathroom ventilation fan. Fan must vent through an approved duct and terminate 3' from an opening, 3' of property line, or 10' from a forced air inlet. CMC 502.2.1

PLUMBING:

- Where two separate handles control the hot and cold water, the left-handed handle, when facing the fixture shall control the hot water. CPC 417.5
- Min shower dimensions 1024 square inches and 30-inch circle. CPC 408.6
- Bathtubs and shower floors and walls w/shower heads shall be finished with a nonabsorbent surface to a min height of 6' above the floor. CRC 307.2
- Shower stall door shall be a min 22" wide. CPC 408.5
- Shower head shall not discharge directly at the entrance of the shower. CPC 408.9
- Shower drain outlet shall be not less than 2" in diameter. CPC 408.4
- Water closets are required to be a min 15" from center to wall, 24" clear in front of water closet (toilet). CPC 402.5
- Max 3 water closets on a 3" main sewer drain. CPC Table 703.2
- Min 12"x12" access to slip joint tub trap. CPC 402.10

ELECTRICAL:

- A min of one 20-amp GFCI circuit is required for bathroom receptacles. CEC 210.11(C)3
- This circuit shall not contain other outlets, except where the 20-amp circuit supplies a single bathroom. Outlets for other equipment within the same bathroom shall be permitted to be supplied in accordance with CEC 210.23 (A).
- At least one GFCI electrical outlet shall be installed within 3' of the outside edge of each bathroom sink basin and be located on wall or partition adjacent to the sink. In no case shall the receptacle be more than 12" below the countertop or sink basin. CEC 210.52(D)
- All bathroom outlets must be GFCI protected. CEC 210.8 (A)(1)

GLAZING IN HIGH HAZARD AREAS:

- Glazing in walls or enclosures containing bathtubs or showers where the bottom of the glazing is less than 60" above the walking surface shall be tempered and identification of tempered glazing shall be acid etched, laser etched or embossed. CRC 308.1, 308.4.5

To request this information in an alternative format or to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact the Community Development Department at longbeach.gov/lbcd and 562.570.3807. A minimum of three business days is request to ensure availability; attempts will be made to accommodate requests with shorter notice.