

IECC Compliance Guide to Window Selection in the District of Columbia

Designed to Comply with the IECC Requirements for New Single-Family Residential Buildings in the District of Columbia

Code: 2000 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)

First Edition

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help select windows that will meet the requirements of the IECC in the District of Columbia. This pamphlet contains three prescriptive paths designed to simplify compliance with the IECC as it relates to the District of Columbia. The paths incorporate the requirements for the climate zone in which the District of Columbia is located, i.e., 4,500 - 4,999 heating degree days.

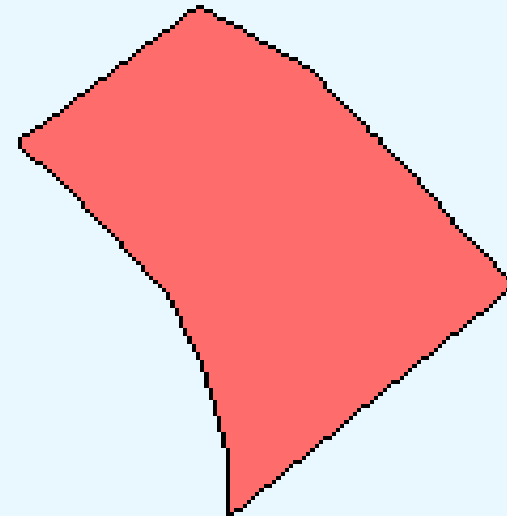
Step-by-Step Instructions

1. Use the "Table of IECC Requirements for Window Selection in the District of Columbia" (on the back of this sheet) to find the sets of construction options or "paths" associated with the District of Columbia.
2. Select the path best suited to your project based upon window area percent.
3. Construct the home with windows that have area weighted average U-factors less than or equal to the value for the selected path and meet the code maximum air leakage requirements.

Example: *If you are constructing a home with a window area of 20% you will comply with the IECC window requirements in the District of Columbia if your windows have an area weighted average maximum U-factor of 0.37 and air leakage less than 0.3 cfm/sq.ft.*

Obtaining the IECC

The IECC is published by the International Code Council (ICC). For additional details on the IECC or to purchase a copy, contact the ICC or visit its website at www.iccsafe.org.



Limitations

This guide is an energy code (IECC based) window selection compliance aid for the District of Columbia and does not provide a guarantee for meeting the state energy code. The guide has not been customized to reflect any state-specific amendments to the IECC that the District of Columbia may adopt or has adopted. The window requirements in this guide also depend upon the energy performance values of other envelope components in the home, i.e., insulation R-values in ceilings, walls, etc., not identified in this guide. For those values, refer to Tables in Chapter 5 of the IECC. For additional details on the District of Columbia's energy code, contact your local building code official.

Table of IECC Requirements for Window Selection in the District of Columbia

Simplified Prescriptive Window Requirements for Compliance with the IECC for New Single-Family Residential Buildings in the District of Columbia

Window Area %	Maximum Window U-factor*
15	0.45
20	0.37
25	0.33

* U-factors may be determined by calculating an area weighted average U-factor for all windows. For example, Area Weighted Average U-factor equals $((\text{Area1} \times \text{U1}) + (\text{Area2} \times \text{U2})) / (\text{Total Area})$. The area weighted average must not exceed the maximum value in the selected path.


NOTES:

1. This table of window requirements is based upon the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and does not reflect any state-specific amendments to the IECC. The IECC specifies additional requirements for other parts of the building envelope not listed here, such as insulation for walls and ceilings.
2. This table applies to single-family, residential construction.
3. "Window" refers to any translucent or transparent material (i.e., glazing) in exterior openings of buildings, including skylights, glass doors, the glass areas of opaque doors, and glass block, along with the accompanying sashes, frames, etc.
4. Window area % is the ratio of the area of the rough opening of windows to the gross wall area, expressed as a percentage. Up to one percent of total window area may be exempt from the U-factor requirement.
5. U-factor is a number, generally between 0.2 and 1.20, that indicates the rate of heat loss (or gain) through a window. A lower U-factor demonstrates a greater resistance to heat loss and gain, i.e., better insulating value, of the window. This number is important for winter comfort.
6. Window U-factor must be determined from a National Fenestration Rating Council (NFRC) label on the product (see sample label below), or from a limited table of product "default" values in the IECC.
7. The code requires that windows be labeled in a manner to determine that they meet the IECC's air infiltration requirements; specifically, equal to or better than 0.30 cfm per square foot of window area (swinging doors below 0.50 cfm) as determined in accordance with AAMA/WDMA 101/I.S.2 (ASTM E 283).
8. The labeled product U-factor values should also be used in calculation procedures to properly size the home's HVAC equipment. The IECC requires the use of a computational procedure like ACCA Manual J to size equipment. Properly sized equipment will operate more efficiently and effectively and will save money up front because consumers can avoid paying extra for oversized equipment.

Look for the NFRC Label!



The most important value to look for is the U-factor

		World's Best Window Co. Millennium 2000+ Vinyl-Clad Wood Frame Double Glazing • Argon Fill • Low E Product Type: Vertical Slider	
ENERGY PERFORMANCE RATINGS			
U-Factor (U.S./I-P)	Solar Heat Gain Coefficient	0.35	0.32
ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE RATINGS			
Visible Transmittance	Air Leakage (U.S./I-P)	0.51	0.2
<small>Manufacturer stipulates that these ratings conform to applicable NFRC procedures for determining whole product performance. NFRC ratings are determined for a fixed set of environmental conditions and a specific product size. Consult manufacturer's literature for other product performance information. www.nfrc.org</small>			

For more information on energy efficient windows, go to the Efficient Windows Collaborative website at: www.efficientwindows.org

