

BEFORE YOU BUY (OR REMODEL)... THINK “ENERGY”

WHY ENERGY CODES ARE IMPORTANT FOR LINCOLN

WHAT ARE ENERGY CODES?

Energy codes are minimum requirements for the design and construction of new and renovated residential and commercial buildings.

Many cities update energy codes every three years, to keep up with advancements in technology and construction methods... but some do not. In those cities, building to outdated standards causes home and business owners to pay unnecessarily high energy bills every month for the lifetime of the building. According to a recent (2013) survey of 300 residents in nearby Omaha:

- 85% believe homeowners have a right to a home that meets up-to-date energy codes.
- 84% of all homebuyers consider low utility costs very important when buying a new home.



WHY ARE ENERGY CODES IMPORTANT?

Residential and commercial buildings use 49% of all energy consumed in the United States. Modern energy codes protect Lincoln citizens and our economy from increasingly high energy bills. As a nation, our growing demand for energy impacts:

- **A family's standard of living:** Money spent on monthly energy bills can be spent elsewhere.
- **Our economy:** Every dollar not spent on imported energy, is money that remains in our economy. The more energy we import, the more dollars we export.
- **The environment:** Energy efficiency reduces air, water, and soil pollution because fewer fossil fuels are burned to meet demand.
- **U.S. competitiveness:** Lower energy bills make it easier for American businesses to thrive inside its border, and not move overseas.
- **Jobs:** Increased demand for energy efficient goods and services provides jobs for contractors, insulators, mechanical systems companies, window manufacturers, and more.
- **Energy rates:** Energy codes help keep rates lower by delaying the need to build costly new power plants, and ease the strain on our nation's aging utility grid that delivers energy from power plants to our homes and businesses.
- **National security:** As our demand for energy rises, energy efficiency reduces the amount of energy we need to import from outside the U.S.

✓ You have the right to an energy-efficient home built with modern technology and building practices.