

TOP 20 NEC CHANGES

Note: All references within this document pertaining to NFPA 70 - 2023 National Electrical Code shall be indicated or specified as “NEC”.

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The Florida Building Code (FBC) 9th Edition 2026 has been adopted by rule through the Florida Building Commission, and the NEC is one of multiple model codes contained within such adoption.

This document has been created as a commentary by the author, referencing the NEC articles shown below and is not the NEC itself, nor is this to be used as a design specification/instruction manual for any untrained persons as indicated within article 90.2(A) of the NEC.

The NEC has over 2,700 changes and is based on over 5,900 comments from public input with such changes including a wide range of new requirements, deletions, and article reorganizations designed to improve safety for persons and property which has been perpetually developing since the code was first introduced in 1897.

You may visit several websites on the internet pertaining to NEC Changes for further understanding, clarity and interpretation. These sites are in no way related to the author and may differ from the specific NEC. You may also see the commentary within your 2023 NEC One-and-Two Family Electrical Systems-Residential Dwellings (ESRD) book which may have been issued to you from the Alachua County Growth Management Building Department (ACGMBD). Please request the ESRD from your supervisor if one has not been issued to you, thank you.

The author assumes no responsibility or liability for any errors or omissions in the content of this document. The information contained in this document is provided on an "as is" basis with no guarantees of completeness, accuracy, etc.

Alachua County Growth Management employees viewing this document shall read all related code articles within the NEC itself and any interpretations and/or enforcement shall be determined by the Alachua County Growth Management Building Official (AHJ) or the Alachua County Growth Management Assistant Building Official (AHJ) pertaining to any or all code compliance to be enforced for the safety of persons and property.

Shown below are 20 general code changes which also include one-and- two-family dwellings within the NEC for the upcoming Florida Building Code 9th Edition 2026 cycle beginning January 1st, 2027.

1- 100 Definitions

All definitions contained within the NEC have been relocated to Article 100.

Note: If a definition contained within Article 100 applies to only one article, then such article number will be present in the specific definition and the article number will be contained within a parenthesis at the end of the definition.

2- 110.3(B) Installation and Use

This article includes terminology such as “identified for a use” and contains an informational note specifying that QR codes may be utilized for quick access to manufactures installation and use instructions.

Note: Such informational notes are not enforceable as requirements of the NEC per Article 90.5(C) and the use of the OR codes for compliance shall be authorized by the AHJ.

3- 110.26 and 100.26(A)(6) Spaces About Electrical Equipment and Grade, Floor or Working Platforms

Access to egress from working space about electrical equipment now includes requirements for spacing if such open equipment doors impede the required access to prevent worker entrapment by such equipment doors and the grade, floor or working platform shall be as level and flat as practical for the entire working space.

4- 210.8(A)(6) GFCI Protection for Personnel

This article has removed the previous terminology for kitchens stating, “where the receptacles are installed to serve the countertop surfaces” and now includes required GFCI protection for all 125-volt through 250-volt receptacles within all the kitchen areas, behind appliances within the kitchen, etc., not just the countertop locations.

5- 210.8(D) Specific Appliances

This article now includes a list of the specific appliances requiring GFCI protection for the branch circuits or outlets supplying such appliances in addition to the requirements of the 11 locations within article 210.8(A).

Note: Read the voltage and amperage requirements within this article and read the definition for “outlet” within Article 100.

6- 210.8(F) Outdoor Outlets

The areas of GFCI protection for outdoor outlets have now been expanded to all outdoor outlets for general purpose use, new equipment, replaced equipment (whether the existing outlet for the replaced equipment is new or existing), etc., within outdoor locations of the dwelling, separate structures, garages, boat houses and the like,

Note: Read the voltage and amperage requirements within this article and read the definition for “outlet” within Article 100.

Additional note: Exception 2 for the HVAC equipment has expired as of 09-01-2026 and is now required at the time of the FBC code adoption listed within page 1 of this document.

7- 210.12(B) Dwelling Units

The subsections within this article have now been revised and added to, whereas subsection (B) previously addressed dormitory units, now indicate dwelling units including 11 specific locations within the dwelling also including AFCI protection for 120-volt, single-phase, 10-ampere branch circuits.

Note: Read all subsections (A) through (E) within this article for clarity and read Article 210.23(A) pertaining to the 10-ampere branch circuit information.

8- 210.23(A) 10-Ampere Branch Circuits

Among additional articles within the NEC for this new 10-ampere branch circuit, the subsections within this article have now been revised and added to, whereas subsection (A) previously addressed 15-and-20-ampere branch circuits, now indicates new 10-ampere branch circuits including “loads permitted” and “loads not permitted”.

Note: The new requirements for the 10-ampere branch circuits limits such use to the items listed within 210.23(A)(1) items 1 through 3 and the minimum size circuit rating, conductor, overcurrent protection, maximum load, etc. are listed within Tables 210.24 (1) and (2).

Additional note: Read all subsections (A) through (E) within this article for clarity and read the notes contained at the bottom of these tables.

9- 210.52(C)(2), (3) and 210.52(C)(3) items 1 through 3.

The requirements for receptacle outlets to be located at kitchen island and peninsular locations from previous code editions has now been specified as an option with wording such as “if installed”. This does not reduce or alleviate the requirements of raceways and/or wiring contained within raceways to be installed for provisions which must be provided at the kitchen island and peninsular locations for the future addition of such receptacle outlets to serve the kitchen island and peninsular locations.

Also, it does not reduce or alleviate the requirements to install such receptacle outlets within the kitchen island and peninsular locations, if the receptacle outlets are specified within the approved, stamped plans specific to the construction project.

In addition, receptacle outlet locations serving such countertops are no longer permitted to be located below the countertop surfaces and must be installed within one of the locations specified within article 210.52(C)(3) items 1 through 3.

10- 215.18, 225.42 and 230.67 Surge Protection

These new articles and/or revised articles include information pertaining to Type 1 or Type 2 surge protective devices (SPD) for all services supplying dwelling units and other areas, SPD location, SPD type, SPD replacement, etc., for feeder and service conductors supplying structures and specify that the minimum nominal discharge rating has been indicated as 10 kA.

Note: Read all of these articles for clarity.

11- 225.41, 230.85 Emergency Disconnects

This new article and the revised article now requires an emergency disconnect to be installed not only at new one-and-two family dwellings from the previous code edition, but also at existing one-and-two family dwellings where the service equipment is replaced, upgraded, etc. including new and existing one-and-two family dwellings supplied by a feeder and shall be located within a readily accessible outdoor location on or near the structure which will ensure that firefighters/first responders can de-energize a building quickly and safely, regardless of how it is supplied. .

In addition, it also requires the emergency disconnect equipment to have a SCCR/AIC rating at or above the available fault current. The fault current is defined within article 100 and may be obtained within a fault current calculation specific to the electrical service/feeder conductors supplied to the structure.

12- 250.50, 250.52(A)(3)(1) and 250.52(B)(item 3) Grounding Electrode System

The terminology contained within these articles have been revised from “rods or steel” to “rebar” for clarity and will help alleviate any confusion when these requirements are to be complied with.

Note: Read the exception within article 250.50 which indicates that the grounding electrode conductor is not required to be connected to the existing “rebar” which is not accessible within the existing building or structure foundation.

This exception strengthens the understanding that one would not require someone to “chip away”, “drill out” or otherwise destroy or lessen the structural integrity of the existing building or structures foundation to attach an additional conductor for grounding/bonding purposes where an additional foundation/slab is connected to an existing foundation/slab of a building or structure. This exception would not apply to a new building or structure or would not apply to any specific detailed/engineered plans requiring such installation.

Additional note: Read 250.68(C) (item 3) regarding “rebar” extensions with installations per 250.52(A)(3), so as not to allow ground rods for such “rebar” extensions which may have been misunderstood in the past. The extension is only permitted with the “rebar” material, not ground rods.

13- 250.140(B)(5) Grounded Conductor Connections

This article has been revised and subdivided from the previous edition to include information for the existing grounding conductor which was terminated to the frame of dryers and ranges due to the lack of the 4-wire installation at the time of construction, more than likely with type SE 3-wire conductors.

This type of installation has been revisited, not requiring a new equipment grounding conductor within a 4-wire configuration to be installed and terminated to the frames of dryers and ranges within the existing conditions as long as items 1, 2 and 3 are met and such conductor must comply with item 5, field insulating the conductor with a listed material.

These conditions have been relocated from the previous code article exception and now are contained within its own sub-section due to outreach from public comments referencing service changes and ATS installations.

14- 250.148 Continuity of Equipment Grounding Conductors and Attachment in Boxes

This article heading has been reworded, and the sub-sections have been revised, edited and removed from sections (A) through (E) to sections (A) through (D), now requiring that all equipment grounding conductors are to be connected together regardless of if the equipment grounding conductors are for separate branch circuits or not.

The size of the bonding jumper to be installed to any metallic boxes containing such splices or terminations shall be based on Table 250.122 and the termination methods/materials shall be listed/labeled for such splices, quantity and size of conductors, indoor/outdoor environment, etc. as per 110.3(B).

Note: Read all of the sub-sections for clarity including the exception referencing 250.146(D) for isolated ground receptacles.

15- 300.4(G) Fittings

This article has been revised and edited and now includes 4 items to select from for protecting insulated conductors in which a raceway containing AWG 4 conductors or larger will be installed within an enclosure. This revision now requires that the type of protection (i.e. fiber bushing, insulated throat, etc.) is to be installed prior to the installation of the conductors, not afterwards with use of “split fittings”, etc.

The purpose of the change was to ensure protection of the insulated conductors while being installed within the raceway, pipe, etc. The 4 items were included within the previous edition, worded for the most part in the initial sentence.

This code change did not eliminate the use of any listed “split fittings” but requires the fittings to be installed prior to the conductor installation.

16- Table 300.5(A) Minimum Cover Requirements and 358.10 Uses Permitted

The burial depth table now includes electrical metallic tubing (EMT) within column 3 and has added note 6 at the bottom of the table referencing article 358.10, which has been revised to include “direct burial applications with fittings identified for direct burial”.

The previous code edition permitted EMT to be installed in direct contact with the earth but did not specify if it was permitted within underground installations, nor did it specify such fittings to be identified for direct burial.

17- 312.10, 314.5 Screws or Other Fasteners

These new code articles pertaining to cabinets, cutout boxes, meter socket enclosures, device boxes, fixture boxes, pull/junction boxes, handhole enclosures, etc. indicate the type and length of which field installed fasteners, screws, etc. may be located within such electrical enclosures specified by the manufacture or as one or more of the listed items within the code articles.

Note: Read all the exceptions for additional measurements and read article 100 Definitions for the different types of enclosures.

18- 352.44(B) Earth Movement

This new article addresses expansion fitting requirements for the installation of PVC raceways underground. The expansion requirements for PVC raceways installed above ground to compensate for thermal expansion and contraction have been in the NEC for several editions from 2008 or earlier.

The new article now requires expansion fittings to be installed for the underground raceway installations to compensate for soil settlement, earth movement, etc. alleviating the

raceways and fittings from being pushed up into or pulled out of the electrical exterior enclosures.

Note: The expansion fittings shall be installed where emerging from the ground per the manufactures installation instructions per Article 110.3(B).

Additional note: Most manufacturers will provide a marking onto the exterior of the fitting for placement prior to applying the solvent cement, usually within the middle adjustment area leaving space for both contraction and expansion.

19- 404.14(D), 406.3(D)

These new articles address the wiring type and terminations pertaining to snap switches and receptacles utilized within 15 and 20 ampere branch circuits including the type of conductors to be used and moreover, the 15 ampere snap switch and receptacle termination, specifically the push-in or stab-in termination within the back of the device limiting the conductor type and size to AWG 14 solid copper only in conjunction with the listing and labeling from the manufacture unless listed and labeled otherwise..

20- 406.9(C), 410.10(D), 422.18(B), 440.8

The revisions and new article sections further define the zone surrounding the bathtub and shower areas, prohibiting receptacle outlets, luminaires, paddle fans, pendants, cord-and-plug luminaires, etc. and HVAC equipment to be installed within the zone, including the space below the bathtub or shower rim.

Note: Read all 4 exceptions within 406.9(C) pertaining to the installation of such receptacle outlets and the restriction prohibiting such receptacle outlet locations between the bathtub or shower and the adjoining plumbing fixtures such as a water closet or bidet not meeting the minimum 36 inch clearance.

Additional note: Read 422.18(B) restricting the use of metal parts for ceiling-suspended paddle fans within the bathtub and shower zone.

Thank you and have a blessed day...

Dave H. 09-28-26

