
Is Superior Code a Mandatory Program?

No! The Superior Code program is a voluntary program which provides guidelines for builders to follow to construct homes that are better able to, withstand hazard events than those constructed to minimal building code standards. Builders are not obligated to build homes to these specifications, however, they are encouraged to do so in order to provide a more hazard resistant home for their customers.

Who verifies that a Superior Code home meets the required specifications?

The building inspection department for the jurisdiction in which the home is located reviews the construction drawings and conducts inspections of the Superior Code homes to determine if the structure meets or exceeds the Superior Code standards. The designer must indicate that the home is a Superior Code home on the construction plans for the structure to be identified as a Superior Code home. Additional inspections are conducted by the building inspection department to determine if the Superior Code specifications have been met.

Are only new construction homes Superior Code?

The Superior program was launched in November, 2000 and is geared towards new construction. Generally homes for which plans were developed or that were constructed prior to this date will not be Superior Code homes. Look for the Superior Code logo medallion and verify with the Project Impact office to make certain your home is a Superior Code home.

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R-05/04

**SUPERIOR CODE
HOME PROGRAM**



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What is a Superior Code Home?

A Superior Code home is one that has been constructed to standards that exceed minimal building code requirements. As a result of this, these structures are better able to withstand the effects of high winds, floods, or earthquakes than are homes that are built to minimal standards.

Why should I build or purchase a home built to Superior Code standards?

A Superior Code home provides you with a better chance of minimizing damages from hazard events. Most of the standards that a Superior Code home must meet do not significantly increase the cost of the structure if included at the time of construction, yet provide a safer structure for your family.

How do I know if a home is built to Superior Code standards?

All homes constructed to Superior Code standards are provided with a medallion with the Superior Code logo. Contact the Project Impact office at (843) 202-6940 to verify if a home is a Superior Code home.



What are some of the features of a Superior Code home?

Superior Code Homes require alternative provisions to minimal building code requirements in the following areas:

- Plan Requirements
- Footings and Foundations
- Framing
- Roof system
- Installation of Doors and Windows
- Electrical System
- Non-Structural Hazard Protection

Where can I get detailed information about the Superior Code home?

Specification booklets for the Superior Code program are available through the Charleston County, SC Area Project Impact office at (843) 202-6940 or through the building departments of many of the local jurisdictions in Charleston County. Look in the blue pages of the telephone book for the telephone number of the building department for your jurisdiction.

What if my designer wants to use an alternative but equivalent method to the Superior Code specifications?

The Superior Code specifications may be met with alternative methods as long as a South Carolina registered Professional Engineer provides a sealed certification that the alternative method meets or exceeds the standards identified within the Superior Code specifications.

Can I find Superior Code homes anywhere?

The Superior Code program was initially developed by the Charleston County, SC Area Project Impact initiative for use within Charleston County and the municipalities, within Charleston County. The State of South Carolina has requested that the specification booklets for the Superior Code program be distributed to all of the Counties in South Carolina so that other jurisdictions may use these specifications. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has also expressed an interest in encouraging communities across the United States to participate in this program.