



# Chalkline

May 2017

## Georgia Intends to Adopt 2015 Energy Code

There are changes on the way when it comes to the energy codes. Georgia is currently on the 2012 code and was a leader in the Southeast when they adopted that code.

If the 2015 code is adopted as is, there will be significant changes ahead. Blower Door tests are currently required by the 2012 code and allow up to 7 air changes per hour. The 2015 version would require that same house be at or below 3

ACH. In an effort to eliminate mold in new homes, any house that tests below 5 ACH will be required to have a mechanical fresh air supply. So now you are being required to make the house so tight that you have to blow fresh air into the house???????

The HBAG is once again fighting to builders' behalf and negotiating with the DCA to come up with a more sensible approach that keeps the builder in mind.

## Spending Reaches Post-Recession High

Private residential construction spending grew 1.2% in March to a seasonally adjusted annual rate (SAAR) of \$503.4 billion, according to [NAHB analysis](#) of Census data. This is 7.5% higher than a year ago and represents a new post-recession high. The gains are largely attributed to

growth in spending on multi-family and home improvements. Multifamily construction spending continued its record breaking pace to a SAAR of \$66.1 billion. Spending on home improvements has now increased for six straight months, reaching an SAAR of \$178.9 billion in March.

## Calendar of Events

May 23

3 Hour Cont. Ed Class  
Jackson EMC Building

June 1

Membership Meeting

June 15

Board of Directors Mtg

June 22

3 Hour Cont. Ed. Class

July 4

Independence Day

July 6

No July Membership Meeting

July 20

Board of Directors



## Lumber Duty Will Cost 8,000 Jobs

Analysis by NAHB economists shows that more than 8,000 full-time jobs will be lost this year as the result of the decision by the U.S. Department of Commerce to impose a 19.88% duty on [Canadian softwood lumber](#) exports to the United States.

Due to "special circumstances," the duties will be retroactive 90 days from the date that the rates are officially published in the Federal Register, likely back to the beginning of February.

NAHB senior economist Paul Emrath estimates that the annual impact of the 19.88% duty, if in effect throughout 2017, would be:

- A loss of \$498.3 million in wages and salaries for U.S. workers;
- A loss of \$350.2 million in taxes and other government revenue;
- A loss of 8,241 full-time U.S. jobs.

Many of the jobs are in construction, but the effects are not limited to a single industry, as wages and jobs will be lost in the many industries that support housing.

## NAHB Responds to White House Tax Plan

NAHB Chair Granger MacDonald recently responded to the White House's federal tax reform proposal.

"NAHB commends President Trump for tackling tax reform and keeping the mortgage interest deduction as one of two

individual deductions. However, doubling the standard deduction could severely marginalize the mortgage interest deduction, which would reduce housing demand and lead to lower home values."

Read [the full statement](#).

## OSHA Again Delays Silica Rule Enforcement

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has announced that it will further delay the enforcement of the [crystalline silica standard](#) that applies to the construction industry.

Originally scheduled to begin

June 23, enforcement is now set to begin Sept. 23, 2017.

Despite the delay, NAHB and its fellow members of the Construction Industry Safety Coalition will continue to challenge this excessively burdensome rule.

## Applications Open for Pillars Awards

The application process is open for the 2017 NAHB Multifamily Pillars of the Industry Awards competition. Multifamily owners and developers, builders, architects, interior designers and other industry professionals are encouraged to enter – and let NAHB shine the spotlight on their creative projects.

The awards highlight excellence in apartment and condominium design, both market rate and affordable. They also honor interior merchandising and superior property management and marketing.

All applications must be submitted online by Aug. 4. More information about the awards competition is available at [nahb.org/pillarsawards](http://nahb.org/pillarsawards).

## Make Plans for 2017 Leg Con and Midyear Meeting

All NAHB members are encouraged to join the 2017 NAHB [Legislative Conference](#) on June 14 to make sure our representatives in Congress hear the housing industry perspective. If you're a member of NAHB's Board of Directors or sit on a committee, then please make plans to attend the [Midyear Board of Directors Meeting](#) June 13-17 in Washington, D.C.

# Continuing Education Class set to Beat June Deadline

All licensed builders in Georgia are coming up on a deadline that could put their license at risk. Although most licenses are not due for renewal for another year, continuing education credits are due on June 30th of every year.

That's right, even in years when builders do not have to renew their license, they must still have either three or six hours of continuing education. Any builder holding a Basic Residential license is required to have three hours of continuing education each year, while anyone holding a Residential/Light Commercial License is required to have a total of six hours of continuing education each year.

If the state selects you for an audit, you will be required to show certificates proving you received continuing education credits for both your renewal year and the previous year. Up until now they have been accepting certificates that have been received since their last renewal, but

now they are said to be cracking down and making sure that builders have received their continuing education during the appropriate time period. During the last renewal cycle, there were several builders in our state that had their license put on probation for various infractions that include lack of, and improper continuing education.

It is always better to receive your continuing education late, than to not receive it at all.

If you do come up short on continuing education, please remember that you are allowed to receive up to half of your required education each year through online classes.

The HBA of North Georgia has a portal for online classes that are state approved and can be taken at your own pace and on your schedule. If you are interested, you can go to our portal at the link below.

[Click here for online Continuing Ed Classes](#)

## Distracted Driving a Serious Matter

Whether the driver is off-the-clock or on the job, [Distracted Driving](#) is a growing problem.

The National Safety Council estimates that in 2016, roughly 40,000 people died in motor vehicle crashes — the highest total in nine years and an alarming 14% increase from just two years ago.

“From an insurance industry perspective, distracted driving is the No. 1 issue for automobile safety, as the vast majority of people admit they frequently drive while talking on the phone, texting, eating, or doing any number of other activities,” says Bill Schaffner, director of risk management for Builders Mutual Insurance Company.

Schaffner suggests that more employers should be mindful of how often their workers are potentially distracted while operating company vehicles and heavy equipment.

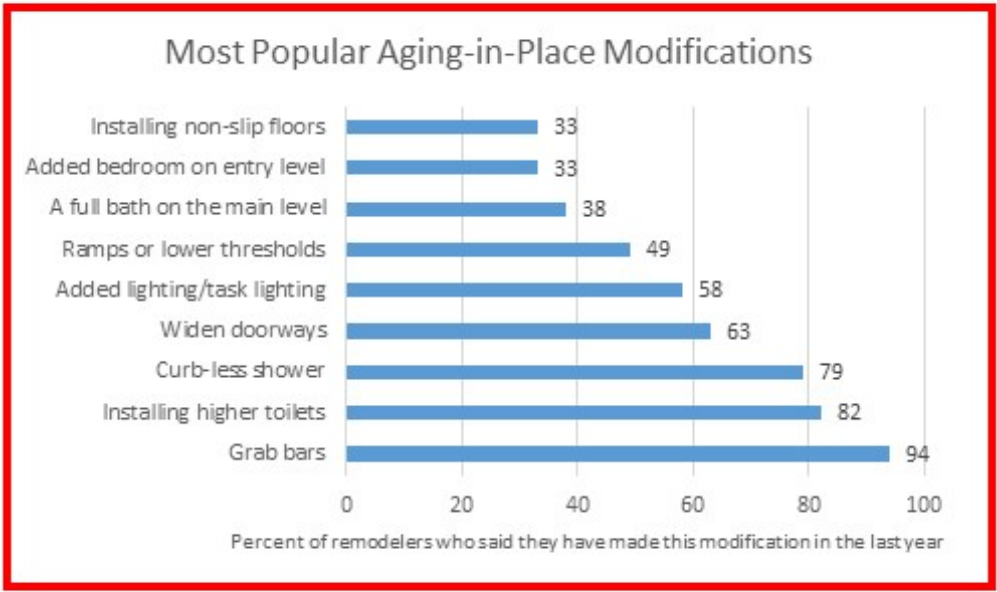
## Model Codes Adoption Kits

Forty-eight states adopt some version of the model International Energy Efficiency Code (IECC). But there are a number of provisions in the model that can be improved.

The NAHB Construction Codes and Standards department has put together a Code Adoption Kit for each edition of the IECC to help states navigate the code adoption process.

The 2015 version of NAHB's [energy codes adoption kit](#) is a great tool for home builders and HBAs seeking sensible codes that save home owners on their energy bills.

There's no national requirement for states to use the latest version of the codes. Some states use the 2012 or 2009 editions, or a combination of the three. NAHB has adoption kits to help builders and HBAs convince the adopting authority that a modified version of the model code is a better way.



### Aging-in-Place Modifications a Growing Trend

The past five years have seen increases in the number of remodelers engaged in aging-in-place home modifications and in home owner awareness of these types of remodeling projects, according to a survey by NAHB Remodelers, the remodeling arm of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB). Conducted in conjunction with National Home Remodeling Month in May, the [survey of remodelers](#) also revealed that simple and less costly modifications are increasing in popularity.

"Low-cost, simple modifications to help people be safer and more comfortable in their homes, such as installing grab bars and higher toilets, continue to be the most popular aging-in-place remodeling projects," said 2017 NAHB Remodelers Chair Dan Bawden, CAPS, CGP, CGR, GMB, a remodeler from Houston. "A professional remodeler can make recommendations to home owners that meet both their lifestyle and budget needs."

According to the survey, 80 percent of remodeling companies are doing aging-in-place projects, up from 68 percent in 2013. Remodelers reporting that "most" of their customers were familiar with the aging-in-place concept increased from 11 percent in 2013 to 17 percent in 2016.

The five aging-in-place modifications that have increased the most in application since 2013 were:

- Added lighting/task lighting      12 percent increase
- Curb-less showers                      9 percent increase
- Grab bars                                      7 percent increase
- Non-slip floors                              7 percent increase
- Widening doorways                      5 percent increase

More complex and costly projects have decreased slightly in popularity since 2013. Adding an entry-level bedroom dropped one point to 33 percent, and installing ramps or lowering thresholds dropped two points to 49 percent.

### Take Advantage Of Member Savings

NAHB members can enjoy discounts on vehicles, shipping, computers, car rentals, office supplies, insurance and more.

NAHB's purchasing power means big savings on brands you know and trust, like Lowe's, GM, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, Dell, UPS and many more.

Many of the members of our local association have already taken advantage of the savings on new vehicles. If you go shopping for a new vehicle, negotiate your best possible deal, and then, let them know about the NAHB discount. The \$500/\$1000 discount comes off the best deal. For more information on the NAHB member advantage program, and to see all of the available discounts, go to [NAHB.org/ma](http://NAHB.org/ma). From there, you can link to each vendor and see the details on their exclusive discounts.

Pocket the Savings

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