



2026 California Building Code Compliance Quick Reference Checklist

Project Information

- Project Name: _____
- Project Address: _____
- Jurisdiction: _____
- Project Type: ☐ Residential ☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Mixed-Use
- Permit Application Date: _____

1. ENERGY COMPLIANCE (Title 24, Part 6)

Mandatory Requirements

- ☐ **Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Systems** - Verify required capacity per Title 24
- ☐ **Battery Storage Ready** - Conduit and panel space for future battery installation
- ☐ **Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure**
 - Residential: Level 2 EV charging capability
 - Commercial: % of spaces with EV charging per occupancy type
 - Make-ready parking spaces with conduit and panel capacity

Energy Compliance Documentation

- ☐ **CF1R Form** - Certificate of Compliance (Residential)
- ☐ **CF1R-NCB Form** - Certificate of Compliance (Nonresidential/Commercial)
- ☐ **CF2R Form** - Certificate of Installation
- ☐ **CF3R Form** - Solar Ready Documentation (if applicable)
- ☐ **Energy Calculations** - Performance approach or prescriptive compliance
- ☐ **HERS Verification** - Required field verification items identified

HVAC & Mechanical

- ☐ High-efficiency HVAC equipment specified (minimum SEER/HSPF ratings met)
- ☐ Duct sealing and insulation requirements verified
- ☐ Demand-controlled ventilation (commercial projects)
- ☐ Economizer requirements for commercial cooling systems
- ☐ Equipment sizing calculations included

Lighting & Controls

- ☐ High-efficacy lighting specified (LED required in most applications)
- ☐ Automatic lighting controls (occupancy sensors, time switches, daylighting)
- ☐ Outdoor lighting power allowances met
- ☐ Wiring for future solar-ready compliance



2026 California Building Code Compliance Quick Reference Checklist

Project Information

Building Envelope

- ☐ Insulation R-values meet or exceed requirements by climate zone
- ☐ Window U-factor and SHGC (Solar Heat Gain Coefficient) values verified
- ☐ Air sealing and weatherization measures specified
- ☐ Cool roof requirements (commercial buildings)
- ☐ Radiant barrier requirements (residential attics in Climate Zones 10-15)

2. WATER EFFICIENCY & CONSERVATION (Title 24, Part 11 - CALGreen)

Mandatory Measures

- ☐ **Low-flow plumbing fixtures**
 - Toilets: Max 1.28 gpf (gallons per flush)
 - Urinals: Max 0.5 gpf
 - Showerheads: Max 1.8 gpm (gallons per minute) at 80 psi
 - Lavatory faucets: Max 1.2 gpm at 60 psi
- ☐ **Water heater efficiency** - Meets federal efficiency standards
- ☐ **Outdoor water use**
 - Landscape irrigation system with automatic controller
 - Drip irrigation or high-efficiency sprinklers
 - Soil moisture sensors or rain shut-off devices
- ☐ **Indoor water use reduction** - 20% reduction from baseline (Tier 1 voluntary)

3. STRUCTURAL SAFETY (California Building Code, Part 2)

Seismic Design

- ☐ Seismic Design Category (SDC) determined and documented
- ☐ Site-specific seismic hazard analysis (if required for Site Class F or SDC D+)
- ☐ Lateral force-resisting system identified and detailed
- ☐ Foundation design for seismic loads
- ☐ Anchorage and bracing of mechanical/electrical equipment
- ☐ Nonstructural component seismic requirements met

2026 California Building Code Compliance Quick Reference Checklist

Project Information

Structural Documentation

- ☐ Structural calculations sealed by licensed engineer
- ☐ Foundation plan and details
- ☐ Framing plans (roof, floor, wall)
- ☐ Shear wall and lateral bracing details
- ☐ Connection details for all critical elements
- ☐ Load path clearly shown from roof to foundation
- ☐ Material specifications and grades indicated
- ☐ Special inspection requirements identified

Wind Design

- ☐ Wind speed and exposure category verified
- ☐ Wind load calculations included
- ☐ Roof-to-wall and wall-to-foundation connections detailed
- ☐ Opening protection for high wind areas (if applicable)

4. FIRE SAFETY & LIFE SAFETY

Fire Sprinkler Requirements

- ☐ **Residential** - Automatic fire sprinkler system required in all new construction
- ☐ **Commercial** - Sprinklers per occupancy and building area requirements
- ☐ Fire sprinkler shop drawings (deferred submittal noted if applicable)
- ☐ Hydraulic calculations by licensed contractor
- ☐ Backflow prevention devices specified

Fire Rated Assemblies

- ☐ Fire-rated walls, floors, and ceilings identified on plans
- ☐ Fire ratings comply with Table 601 (type of construction)
- ☐ Fire-rated door and window assemblies specified
- ☐ Firestopping and through-penetration details
- ☐ Fire-resistive joint systems at rated assemblies

2026 California Building Code Compliance Quick Reference Checklist

Project Information

Egress & Exits

- ☐ Minimum number of exits verified
- ☐ Exit widths calculated and meet minimum requirements
- ☐ Exit path travel distances within limits
- ☐ Exit signage and emergency lighting specified
- ☐ Panic hardware on required doors
- ☐ Stairway dimensions and handrail requirements met

Fire Alarm Systems

- ☐ Fire alarm system required (per occupancy and building size)
- ☐ Smoke detectors and CO detectors (residential)
- ☐ System interconnection requirements met
- ☐ Addressable system with voice evacuation (if required)

5. ACCESSIBILITY (CBC Chapter 11B - California Accessibility Standards)

Site & Parking

- ☐ Accessible parking spaces (quantity and dimensions per Table 11B-6)
- ☐ Van-accessible spaces with proper signage
- ☐ Accessible route from parking to building entrance
- ☐ Curb ramps with detectable warning surfaces
- ☐ Maximum slope 1:12 for accessible routes

Building Access

- ☐ Accessible building entrance identified
- ☐ Door clear width minimum 32" (or per opening type)
- ☐ Door hardware operable with one hand, no tight grasping
- ☐ Maneuvering clearances at doors verified
- ☐ Threshold heights meet maximum limits (1/2" max)

**Helping Architecture Firms Scale with On-Demand,
US-Trained Remote Architects (Level I, II & III)**

2026 California Building Code Compliance Quick Reference Checklist

Project Information

Interior Accessibility

- ☐ Accessible route throughout building
- ☐ Corridor widths minimum 44" (or per occupancy)
- ☐ Elevator requirements (if multi-story)
- ☐ Accessible restroom facilities
 - Grab bars at toilets and showers
 - Clear floor space for wheelchair maneuvering
 - Lavatory knee clearance and mounting heights
 - Accessible stall dimensions
- ☐ Accessible drinking fountains (if provided)
- ☐ Controls and outlets at accessible heights (15"-48")

Interior Accessibility

- ☐ Reinforcement for future grab bars (residential bathrooms)
- ☐ Type A and Type B dwelling unit requirements (multi-family)
- ☐ Accessible appliance clearances
- ☐ Accessible kitchen and bathroom design

6. ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS (California Electrical Code, Part 3)

General Requirements

- ☐ Panel schedule showing all circuits and loads
- ☐ Load calculations (service size verification)
- ☐ GFCI protection where required (kitchens, bathrooms, garages, exteriors)
- ☐ AFCI protection for required circuits
- ☐ Grounding and bonding details
- ☐ Emergency power systems (if required)

EV Charging (Energy Code Compliance)

- ☐ Dedicated circuit and outlet for Level 2 charging
- ☐ Panel capacity for current and future EV loads
- ☐ Conduit for future expansion



2026 California Building Code Compliance Quick Reference Checklist

Project Information

Solar PV Electrical

- ☐ Solar PV system single-line diagram
- ☐ Rapid shutdown system compliant with NEC 690.12
- ☐ Main panel upgrade (if needed for solar interconnection)
- ☐ Battery storage interconnection (if included)

7. PLUMBING & MECHANICAL (California Plumbing Code, Part 5 & Mechanical Code, Part 4)

Plumbing

- ☐ Fixture count meets minimum requirements for occupancy
- ☐ Fixture schedule with specifications
- ☐ Water supply sizing calculations
- ☐ Drainage and vent system layout
- ☐ Backflow prevention devices specified
- ☐ Water heater seismic strapping details
- ☐ Medical gas systems (if applicable)

Mechanical Ventilation

- ☐ Ventilation rates calculated per ASHRAE 62.2 (residential) or 62.1 (commercial)
- ☐ Kitchen exhaust rated for CFM requirements
- ☐ Bathroom exhaust fans specified
- ☐ Whole-house ventilation system (if required)
- ☐ Make-up air for commercial kitchens
- ☐ Duct layout and sizing

8. SPECIAL INSPECTIONS & TESTING

Required Special Inspections (Identify & Schedule)

- ☐ Structural steel welding and bolting
- ☐ Reinforced concrete placement
- ☐ Post-tensioned concrete
- ☐ Masonry construction
- ☐ Spray-applied fireproofing
- ☐ Soils compaction and foundation
- ☐ Wood structural panel shear walls
- ☐ Fire-resistive penetrations and joints



Helping Architecture Firms Scale with On-Demand, US-Trained Remote Architects (Level I, II & III)

2026 California Building Code Compliance Quick Reference Checklist

Project Information

Required Testing

- ☐ Soils investigation report
- ☐ Special foundation testing (expansive soils, liquefaction)
- ☐ Fire sprinkler system hydraulic test
- ☐ Duct leakage testing (HERS verification)
- ☐ Building envelope air leakage testing
- ☐ Fire-resistive assembly testing

9. PLAN SET COMPLETENESS

Architectural Plans

- ☐ Site plan with property lines, setbacks, and easements
- ☐ Floor plans with dimensions and room labels
- ☐ Building elevations (all sides)
- ☐ Building sections
- ☐ Roof plan with slopes and drainage
- ☐ Door and window schedules
- ☐ Wall sections showing assembly details
- ☐ Stair details
- ☐ General notes and specifications

Cover Sheet

- ☐ Project data table (area, height, occupancy, construction type)
- ☐ Code analysis summary
- ☐ Site vicinity map
- ☐ Drawing index
- ☐ Abbreviations and symbols legend
- ☐ Accessibility compliance statement

Professional Stamps & Signatures

- ☐ Architect stamp and signature (if required)
- ☐ Structural engineer stamp and signature
- ☐ Civil engineer stamp (site plan, grading)
- ☐ Mechanical engineer stamp (if required)
- ☐ Electrical engineer stamp (if required)
- ☐ All stamps include license number and expiration date



**Helping Architecture Firms Scale with On-Demand,
US-Trained Remote Architects (Level I, II & III)**

2026 California Building Code Compliance Quick Reference Checklist

Project Information

10. JURISDICTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Local Agency Specific

- ☐ Jurisdiction-specific application forms completed
- ☐ Plan check fees calculated and paid
- ☐ Permit fees estimated
- ☐ Neighborhood notices (if required)
- ☐ Environmental review (CEQA) completed (if applicable)
- ☐ Fire department plan review (separate submittal if required)
- ☐ Public works review (if required)
- ☐ Landscape/water efficient landscape submittal
- ☐ Geotechnical report (if required by jurisdiction)

11. DEFERRED SUBMITTALS (Track & Schedule)

Common Deferred Items

- ☐ Fire sprinkler shop drawings
- ☐ Fire alarm shop drawings
- ☐ Structural steel fabrication drawings
- ☐ Truss calculations and layout
- ☐ Pre-engineered metal building plans
- ☐ Kitchen hood suppression system
- ☐ Prefabricated components
- ☐ **Note:** All deferred submittals must be noted on plans and approved before installation

12. FINAL CHECKLIST BEFORE SUBMISSION

Quality Control Review

- ☐ All plan sheets reviewed for accuracy and completeness
- ☐ Drawings cross-referenced and coordinated between disciplines
- ☐ All specifications match drawings
- ☐ All calculations checked and sealed
- ☐ All required forms included and completed
- ☐ Title blocks complete on all sheets
- ☐ Revision tracking system in place
- ☐ Digital file names follow jurisdiction requirements
- ☐ PDF files properly bookmarked and searchable

Helping Architecture Firms Scale with On-Demand, US-Trained Remote Architects (Level I, II & III)

2026 California Building Code Compliance Quick Reference Checklist

Project Information

Submittal Package

- ☐ Correct number of plan sets (verify with jurisdiction)
- ☐ Digital submittal uploaded to portal (if available)
- ☐ Application forms signed by property owner
- ☐ Proof of ownership or authorization letter
- ☐ Copy of preliminary title report (if required)
- ☐ Contractor license information
- ☐ Workers' compensation insurance certificate
- ☐ Asbestos/lead survey (for remodels/additions)

NOTES & REMINDERS

Climate Zone: California has 16 climate zones. Verify your project's climate zone as it affects energy requirements.

2026 Code Effective Date: Confirm the effective date with your local jurisdiction. Some may adopt earlier or have amendments.

Local Amendments: Always verify local amendments to the state code. Cities and counties may have additional requirements.

Pre-Application Meeting: Consider scheduling a pre-app meeting with the building department to discuss project-specific requirements.

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Revision	Date	Description	Reviewer

Prepared By: _____ Date: _____

Reviewed By: _____ Date: _____

Approved By: _____ Date: _____



**Helping Architecture Firms Scale with On-Demand,
US-Trained Remote Architects (Level I, II & III)**

2026 California Building Code Compliance Quick Reference Checklist

This checklist is a general guide for 2026 California Building Code compliance. Requirements may vary by jurisdiction and project type. Always verify specific requirements with your local building department and consult with licensed professionals.

For Questions or Assistance: contact@virtualbuildingstudio.com

Click here to Download Additional Resources



Scan to Download Our Brochure