



MNSPECT

HELPING YOU COMPLY WITH THE CODE

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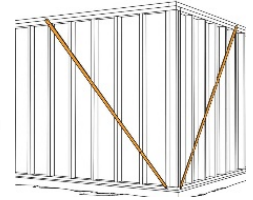
MNSPECT MINUTE

November 2016

Happy Thanksgiving  from our family to yours!

What is wall bracing and why is it such a big deal?

Proper wall bracing is critical in the design of any home. What IS wall bracing? It is a system of specially constructed wall segments attached to the roof, floor, and foundation that resist lateral (sideways) loads created by an earthquake shaking the structure or wind blowing against the sides of the structure. In general, lateral loads are considered to act horizontally, whereas loads resulting from the force of gravity (snow and the weights of materials, furnishing and occupants) are considered to act vertically, making it important to build a structure that can withstand both forces.



Wall bracing requirements are based on code provisions from the International Residential Code (IRC) and the International Building Code (IBC). Wall bracing is critical not only because it increases the life of the structure and adds to the overall structural quality of a house, but because the Code requires it.

MNSPECT inspectors inspect homes for wall bracing that meets the minimum standards under the Code. The MNSPECT Wall Bracing Verification Services Division performs code compliance verification of wall bracing plans and wall bracing plan creation services. Questions? Call 952-442-7520.

INSPECTOR SPOTLIGHT



ERMIAS MEKONNEN

Welcome Ermias, the newest member of our Inspection Team! Ermias lives in Brooklyn Center with his two boys ages six and nine. He loves to binge-watch movies, travel, and go on long drives. Ermias

has ten years of construction management experience. The oddest thing that Ermias has seen in his experience is a large dormitory building constructed with the windows missing in about a third of it (that would be an expensive fix!). Ermias believes that building to, and the enforcement of, the building code will provide an improved quality of life for an unbelievable number of people!

Q&A for the Day...

Q. Fees in our City Code have become outmoded and need comprehensive updating. However, the total update of fees scattered throughout the City Code would be an arduous and very costly task, due to the publication requirements related to amending the Code. What do you advise?

A. Per the League of Minnesota Cities Handbook, State Statute says that the City Code may have an ordinance that references a separate fee schedule. Fees that would normally be annotated within the Code itself may be compiled into a fee schedule that is adopted by resolution. This makes it possible to review and amend the fee schedule periodically (at the Annual Meeting in January, for instance) without the need to make changes to the City Code. No public hearing on the ordinance establishing the fee schedule is necessary if all fees references stay the same. If fees are to be amended at the establishment of the fee schedule, then a public hearing is required. To save expense, the publication requirement can be met through Summary Publication which refers the reader to the website and/or city offices for the full version. *Building Official fees should simply be referenced in the City fee schedule, not listed in detail, enabling them to remain fluid.*

Questions about a future project? Call us at 952-442-7520 or e-mail us at info@mnspect.com.

Stay connected!

Look for our page on [FACEBOOK](#) (MNSPECT – A Full-time Building Code Administration Service Provider) or follow us on Twitter (MNSPECT, LLC)!

With the adoption of the 2015 Minnesota Residential Building Code, the number of pages on wall bracing more than tripled! This tells us that wall bracing is a big deal, and that the Department of Labor and Industry believes following the wall bracing codes can prevent injuries and save lives!

YOUR CODE PROFESSIONALS:

Administrative Personnel:

Scott Qualle, Designated Building Official
Kandis Hanson, Relationship Manager

Ty Turnquist, Operations Director, Senior Commercial Plans Examiner
Tracy Montgomery, Office Manager

Inspection Personnel

Nick Qualle Derek Qualle Dale Engelmann Steve Horsman Steve Maki Dean Mau Ermias Mekonnen Tracy Reimann

Office Support Personnel

Brandy Blauert Wendy Morrissey Tamara Stuart