



# Requirements To Finish A Basement

Based on the NH State Building and Fire Codes as Amended

Code Administration 37 Green Street 603-225-8580

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<b>Windows &amp; Light &amp; Ventilation</b>	<p>Habitable basement rooms are required to have a minimum window area of not less than 8% of the floor area. One-half of the required window area is required to be operable. These requirements provide a minimum amount of light and ventilation, respectively.</p> <p>Where window area is not adequate to supply a habitable space with light and ventilation, artificial light and mechanical ventilation must be provided as required by <a href="#">Chapter 3 of the International Residential Code</a>.</p> <p>Bathrooms are required to have a minimum window area of not less than 3 square feet, of which one-half must be operable. Where a window is not provided, artificial light and mechanical ventilation are required as specified in the code. Ventilation from the bathroom space shall be exhausted directly to the outside.</p>
<b>Emergency Escape &amp; Rescue Opening</b>	<p>Basements and every sleeping room shall have at least one operable emergency escape and rescue opening. The opening may be a window, door, or bulkhead provided it meets the code requirements.</p>
<b>Required Heating</b>	<p>All habitable spaces (sleeping, living, cooking, and dining areas) shall be provided with heating systems capable of maintaining a room temperature of not less than 68° Fahrenheit.</p>
<b>Required Insulation</b>	<p>The exterior walls, the portion above grade and the portion below grade, must have a minimum per the EC-1 form to comply with the energy code section of the building code.</p>
<b>Combustion Air For Fuel Burning Appliances</b>	<p>When some or all of a basement is converted to habitable space, provisions must be made to ensure that enough combustion air is provided for all fuel burning appliances. These appliances may be oil or gas burning furnaces, boilers, or hot water heaters.</p>
<b>Framing Lumber</b>	<p>All framing lumber in contact with concrete or masonry shall be preservative treated.</p>
<b>Minimum Ceiling Heights</b>	<p>Habitable spaces shall have a minimum ceiling height of not less than 7 feet. Bathrooms, toilet rooms and laundry rooms shall have a minimum ceiling height of not less than 6 feet 8 inches. Beams, girders and ducts must be at least 6 feet 4 inches above the finished floor.</p>
<b>Basement Plumbing</b>	<p>Basement plumbing fixtures will require a sewer backflow valve whenever the elevation of the City manhole in the street is higher than the flood rim of the fixture.</p>

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