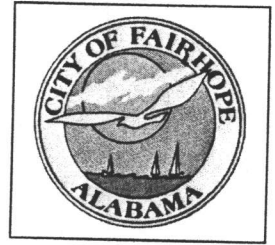


# City Electrical Code Supplement



## FOREWORD

City of Fairhope has adopted the 2005 (NFPA-70) NEC Electrical Code and the City of Fairhope Supplement information contained herein. Electrical contractors working within the City of Fairhope Police Jurisdiction are responsible for obtaining the latest code requirements and fully complying with these requirements. Ignorance of the code, like ignorance of the law, does not relieve the offender of the consequences of their actions. We hope that if you have doubts or questions, you will call to verify solutions to your problem before continuing. A telephone call can help you to avoid expensive changes. Our job is to insure that electrical installations are correctly implemented. We are not teachers and cannot afford the time to guide contractors through jobs; however, we will help as much as possible toward the correct interpretations of the electrical Code. Code questions or calls for inspections should be directed through the building department at (251) 990-0153 Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m..

**CALL (251) 990-0153 FOR ELECTRICAL INSPECTION.**

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**GENERAL:** Electrical permits shall be obtained prior to the beginning of work on electrical installations. On new construction, the building contractor may purchase the electrical permit; however, it must be purchased in the name of an electrical contractor with a current electrical contractor's license from the City of Fairhope, and said electrical contractor must perform the work. On all other installations, the electrical contractor performing the work must purchase the permit. It is advised that the electrical contractors contact the Building Department and pertinent utility companies prior to the beginning of electrical work to clarify questions about the city code. Contractors must call for a rough-in inspection prior to the installation of insulation, electrical devices, or interior wall finishes and conduits in slab. Larger installations may require several staged inspections. Contractors shall also call for a final inspection upon completion of work. It is the sole responsibility of the electrical contractor to call for inspections. Failure to do so may result in fines, penalties, or the removal of building material so that proper inspections may be performed. A TWENTY-FOUR HOUR NOTICE IS REQUIRED ON ALL INSPECTIONS.

**EXCEPTION:** Homeowners shall be allowed to purchase a permit for electrical work on their sole place of residence. This neither applies to owners of rental property nor to the occupants of rental property. All Electrical codes and inspection requirements shall apply. Anyone doing work at a location other than the homeowner will be fined and a stop order placed on the job.

**SCOPE:** The articles contained herein are in addition to the National Electrical Code, henceforth, NEC, and, in some cases, supersedes the requirements of the NEC. Some articles are quoted directly from the NEC to clarify areas of particular importance in meeting the requirements of the Fairhope Electrical Code, henceforth, FEC.

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**SERVICES:**

Service entrance conductors and equipment on all new construction shall have its location approved by the local authority prior to installation. This requirement shall also apply to existing structures where the service is to be rebuilt or upgraded.

- A. All meter bases must be obtained from the utility company from which power is supplied. Meter bases, when on City of Fairhope power, may be obtained from Public Works / City Utilities Building. Meter bases from other utilities will not be accepted.
- B. All new services and upgrades in City of Fairhope Electrical Service area must be underground unless otherwise approved by the City of Fairhope Electric Department. (Note: other utility companies have different requirements for underground).
  - a. Electricians must supply and install 2-1/2" conduit for 200 amp service single phase from the meter base to eighteen inches (18") below grade. Footings that may interfere with installation of the conduit must be removed.
  - b. Electricians must connect the conduit to meter base when utility conduit is run before the meter base is installed. Two and one-half inch (2 1/2") conduit will fit over utility installed red pipe. Electricians must dig and shift the conduit when the meter base does not line up with conduit by utility company. Check with City of Fairhope for services above 200 amp.
- C. For any overhead service, a service mast shall be used in all cases where overhead service is allowed. Protection shall be provided in the form of a conduit where a service mast is not possible. Type S.E. cable shall not be allowed to be used as service entrance conductors unless protected from physical and sunlight damage.

**EXCEPTION:** Special permission may be given in extreme cases to allow the use of type S.E. type cable for entrance conductors without extra protection.

- D. The service mast, where used as the sole support for the service drop conductors, shall be a minimum of two inch (2") rigid conduit. Supports shall be two-hole metal straps at no more than sixteen inch (16") centers and capable of supporting the service drop.

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**SERVICES (cont.)**

- E. Service mast shall have a minimum height of thirty inches (30") above the roofline and a maximum of forty-two inches (42") above the roofline without guyed support.

EXCEPTION: Overhead services not through the roof and attached to the siding must have well secured 5/8" eyebolt for service drop.

- F. Meter enclosures shall be installed at a height between five and six feet (5'-6') from grade level and shall be readily accessible. (Height must be approved for Flood Zones)
- G. Service-entrance conductors shall have a minimum of 100 amperes for a single family dwelling if electric heat is installed minimum of 200 amperes service required.
- H. The service overcurrent device shall be an integral part of the service disconnecting means or shall be located immediately thereto.
- I. The service disconnecting means shall be located outside of the building or other structure.

EXCEPTION: Subject to local authority approval, other methods may be approved.

- J. All Conductors originating from the service disconnect shall have protection to point of entry into structure. (i.e., conduit, chase, etc.)
- K. The higher voltage to ground phase of a three-phase four wire delta connected system shall be on "C" phase for metering and shall be colored orange, in City of Fairhope or if on City of Fairhope power.

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**PANELS**

- A. Main lighting and branch circuit panelboards shall have a minimum rating of one hundred amperes (100 amp) and a minimum of twelve (12) spaces for overcurrent devices. If electrical heat is fed from the inside panel, a minimum of two hundred amperes (200 amp) panelboard is required.
- B. Panelboards and overcurrent devices shall not be located in bathrooms or in the vicinity of easily ignitable material such as clothes closets
- C. Panelboards and overcurrent devices shall be readily accessible.
- D. All breakers to be full size (1"). Mini / Thin Line may NOT be used on new construction.  
  
EXCEPTION: Mini breakers maybe used on 20 circuit 100 Amp panel to obtain 24 circuits only.  
  
EXCEPTION: Subject to local authority approval, other methods may be allowed.
- E. Electric heater closets shall have a minimum of 16" from front of heaters to door to accommodate for disconnect.
- F. Each neutral wire shall be put under an independent lug or screw.
- G. Panel buss must be covered during construction for protection.

**NOTE: SEE DEFINITION OF READILY ACCESSIBLE IN ARTICLE 100 OF THE NEC.**