

**CHAPTER 5
CODE ENFORCEMENT**

**PART 1
UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE**

§ 5-101. Uniform Construction Code.

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1. Oxford Township hereby elects to administer and enforce the provisions of the code, as amended from time to time, with the following changes: **[Amended Ord. No. 2018-117, 9/18/2018¹]**
 - A. Building permits shall be required for all below-grade alterations to existing residential buildings.
 - (1) For purposes of this section, "Below-grade alterations" shall mean any of the following improvements made below the first-floor elevation of a residential structure:
 - (a) Creating a bedroom or other area for overnight accommodations.
 - (b) Making any structural changes.
 - (c) Updating or replacing wiring or electrical systems.
 - (d) Adding new plumbing (rough-in or finished).
 - (e) Adding new HV AC systems or accessories.
 - (f) Adding new electrical service.
 - B. The Uniform Construction Code, as adopted by Oxford Township, and amended from time to time, shall apply to all below-grade alterations.
2. The Uniform Construction Code, contained in 34 Pa. Code, Chapter 401-405, as amended from time to time, is hereby adopted and incorporated herein by reference as the municipal building code of Oxford Township.

1. **Editor's Note: This ordinance provided for an effective date of 1-1-2018.**

3. Administration and enforcement of the code within Oxford Township shall be undertaken in any of the following ways as determined by the Board of Supervisors from time to time by resolution:
 - A. By the designation of an employee of the Township to serve as the municipal code official to act on behalf of the Township.
 - B. By retention of one or more construction code officials or third-party agencies to act on behalf of the Township.
 - C. By agreement with one or more other municipalities for the joint administration and enforcement of this Act through an intermunicipal agreement.
 - D. By entering into a contract with another municipality for the administration and enforcement of this Act on behalf of this Township.
 - E. By entering into an agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry for plan review, inspections and enforcement of structures other than one-family and two-family dwelling units and utility and miscellaneous use structures.
4. A Board of Appeals shall be established by resolution of the Board of Supervisors in conformity with the requirements of the relevant provisions of the code, as amended from time to time, and for the purposes set forth therein. If at any time enforcement and administration is undertaken jointly with one or more other municipalities, said Board of Appeals shall be established by joint action of the participating municipalities.
5. Effect on Other Provisions.
 - A. All building code ordinances or portions of ordinances that were adopted by the Township on or before July 1, 1999, and which equal or exceed the requirements of the code, shall continue in full force and effect until such time as such provisions fail to equal or exceed the minimum requirements of the code, as amended from time to time.
 - B. All building code ordinances or portions of ordinances that were adopted by the Township after July 1, 1999, are hereby repealed.
 - C. All building code ordinances or portions or ordinances which are in effect as of the effective date of this Part and whose requirements are less than the minimum requirements of the code are hereby amended to conform to the comparable provisions of the code.
 - D. All relevant ordinances, regulations and policies of the Township not governed by the code shall remain in full force and effect, and any permits required by Township ordinances, or state or federal statutes or regulations, which are not superseded by the code, including, but

not limited to, zoning, driveway, sewage, highway, NPDES or floodplain/building permits, as applicable, shall continue to be required.

- E. It is the intent of this Part that, by adopting the code, the Township adopts all building or other codes which have been adopted and mandated by the code, including, but not limited to, the International Fuel Gas Code; and, as the code is amended to include or adopt new or updated versions of any building or other codes, such codes automatically shall be updated as part of this Part.
6. Fees assessable by the Township for the administration and enforcement undertaken pursuant to this Part and the code shall be established by the Board of Supervisors by resolution from time to time.
7. Any owner or person, as those terms are defined in the UCC, who or which violates or permits the violation of any provision of this Part or of the code shall commit a summary criminal offense and, upon conviction by a District Justice, shall be subject to a fine of up to \$1,000 plus costs, and imprisonment to the extent allowed by law for summary offenses, for each violation. Each day of a violation, and each separate violation of this Part or the code, shall be considered a separate violation.

