

## **Building Code**

A building code establishes minimum construction standards for new structures as well as for remodeling and repair work performed on existing buildings. These standards are intended to safeguard life, health, property, and the public welfare by regulating and controlling the design, construction, quality of materials, and occupancy of structures.

Minnehaha County maintains a building inspection program by enforcing the nationally recognized Uniform Building Code (UBC). The UBC is updated every three years to improve safety requirements and account for innovations in building materials and construction technology. The county amends certain sections of the code to reflect local conditions. By enforcing the building code, county ensures that construction meets minimum structural and life safety standards.

In the past, several communities have inquired about using the services of the county's building inspection program. This function is currently being performed individually by each of the cities, but under this arrangement it is difficult to retain qualified individuals in a position which is generally only part time. The county should study the alternatives for a cooperative building inspection program with the small cities.