

**CHAPTER 28****NEW JERSEY STATE HOUSING CODE****Authority**

N.J.S.A. 2A:42-76.

**Source and Effective Date**

R.1995 d.387, effective June 22, 1995.  
See: 27 N.J.R. 1850(a), 27 N.J.R. 2737(a).

**Executive Order No. 66(1978) Expiration Date**

Chapter 28, New Jersey State Housing Code, expires on July 22, 2000.

**Historical Note**

Chapter 28, New Jersey State Housing Code, became effective March 3, 1981 as R.1981 d.68. See: 13 N.J.R. 70(c), 13 N.J.R. 189(a). Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 28 was readopted, effective December 20, 1985, as R.1985 d.689. See: 17 N.J.R. 1174(a), 18 N.J.R. 163(a). Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 28 was readopted, effective December 13, 1990, as R.1991 d.19. See: 22 N.J.R. 3076(a), 23 N.J.R. 57(c). Chapter 28, New Jersey State Housing Code, was readopted as R.1995 d.387, effective June 22, 1995. See: Source and Effective Date.

See section annotations for specific rulemaking activity.

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**SUBCHAPTER 1. STANDARDS OF HABITABILITY****5:28-1.1 Scope**

The provisions of this subchapter shall constitute the standards to guide the Public Officer or his agents in determining the fitness of a building for human habitation, use, or occupancy.

**5:28-1.2 Definitions**

The words, terms or phrases listed below for the purpose of this chapter shall be defined and interpreted as follows.

"Administrative Authority" shall mean the department, branch or agency of this municipality which is authorized by the adopting ordinance to administer the provisions of this chapter.

"Building" shall mean any building or structure, or part thereof, used for human habitation, use, or occupancy and includes any accessory buildings and appurtenance belonging thereto or usually enjoyed therewith.

"Dwelling" shall mean a building or structure or part thereof containing one or more dwelling units or lodging units.

"Dwelling unit" shall mean any room or group of rooms or any part thereof located within a building and forming a single habitable unit with facilities which are used, or designed to be used for living, sleeping, cooking, and eating.

"Garbage" shall mean the animal and vegetable and other organic waste resulting from the handling, preparation, cooking and consumption of food.

"Habitable room" shall mean a room or enclosed floor space within a dwelling unit used or designed to be used for living, sleeping, cooking, or eating purposes, excluding bathrooms, water closet compartments, laundries, pantries, foyers or communicating corridors, closets, and storage spaces.

"Infestations" shall mean the presence, within or around a building, of any insects, rodents, or other pests.

"Local health agency" shall mean any county, regional, municipal or other governmental agency organized for the purpose of providing health services, administered by a full-time health officer and conducting a public health officer program pursuant to law.

"Lodging house" shall mean any building, or that part of any building containing one or more lodging units, each of which is rented by one or more persons not related to the owner.

"Lodging unit" shall mean a rented room or group of rooms, containing no cooking facilities, used for living purposes by a separate family or group of persons living together or by a person living alone, within a building.

"Occupant" shall mean any person or persons in actual possession of, and living in the building or dwelling unit, including the owner.

"Owner" shall mean any person properly authorized to exercise powers of, or for an owner of property for purposes of its purchase, sale, use, occupancy, or maintenance.

"Person" shall be given the same meaning as defined in R.S. 1:1-2 of the Revised Statutes of New Jersey.

"Plumbing fixtures" shall mean and include all installed receptacles or devices which are supplied with water or which receive or discharge liquid waste or sewage into the drainage system with which they are directly or indirectly connected.

"Public Officer" shall mean the officer or officers who are authorized by the adopting Ordinance to exercise the powers prescribed by this chapter.

"Rubbish" shall mean and include all combustible and noncombustible waste material, except garbage.

"Utilities" shall mean and include electric, gas, heating, water and sewerage services, and equipment therefor.

#### Case Notes

Municipality was estopped to deny appropriate permits for future construction and occupancy. *Lehen v. Atlantic Highlands Zoning Bd. of Adjustment*, 252 N.J.Super. 392, 599 A.2d 1283 (A.D.1991).

### 5:28-1.3 Water supply

(a) Every dwelling unit and lodging house shall be provided with a safe supply of potable water meeting the standards as set forth in the New Jersey Safe Drinking Water Act regulations (N.J.A.C. 7:10-1 et seq.) published by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

(b) The source of such water supply shall be approved by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and/or the local health agency.

(c) The minimum rate of flow of hot or cold water issuing from a faucet or fixture shall not be less than one gallon per minute.

### 5:28-1.4 Facilities

(a) Every dwelling unit shall contain a kitchen sink of nonabsorbent impervious material, at least one flush type water closet, a lavatory, and a bathtub or shower, available only for the use of occupants of that dwelling unit.

(b) Every lodging house shall be provided with a minimum of one flush type water closet, lavatory, and a bathtub or shower for every eight persons or part thereof.

(c) Every water closet, lavatory, and bathtub or shower for each dwelling unit or lodging house shall be accessible from within the building without passing through any part of any other dwelling unit or lodging unit and in a lodging house shall be located no farther than one floor above or below the lodging units served. Such water closet, lavatory and bathtub or shower shall be contained in a room or rooms which are separated from all other rooms by walls, doors, or partitions that afford privacy.

(d) Every plumbing fixture shall be connected to water and sewer systems approved by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and/or the local health agency, and shall be maintained in good working condition.

(e) Every kitchen sink, lavatory, and bathtub or shower required by this chapter shall be connected to both hot and cold water lines.

(f) Every dwelling shall have water heating facilities which are installed and maintained in good and safe working condition, connected with the hot water lines required under the provision of (e) above, and capable of delivering water at a minimum temperature of not less than 120 degrees Fahrenheit and at a maximum temperature of not more than 160 degrees Fahrenheit at all times in accordance with anticipated need.

### 5:28-1.5 Garbage and rubbish storage

(a) Garbage or other organic waste shall be stored in watertight receptacles of metal or other approved material. Such receptacles shall be provided with tight fitting covers. At least one approved type garbage receptacle shall be provided for each dwelling unit, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:28-1.12(i).

(b) Rubbish shall be stored in receptacles of metal or other approved material. At least one rubbish receptacle shall be provided for each dwelling unit, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:28-1.12(i).

(c) Rubbish that does not include materials determined by local ordinance to be recyclable may be stored together with garbage in an approved type garbage receptacle, unless otherwise provided by ordinance. Recyclable materials shall be stored separately from non-recyclable materials.

Amended by R.1995 d. 387, effective July 17, 1995.  
See: 27 N.J.R. 1850(a), 27 N.J.R. 2737(a).

### 5:28-1.6 Lighting

(a) Every habitable room shall have at least one window or skylight facing directly to the outdoors. The minimum total window or skylight area measured between stops, for every habitable room shall be eight percent of the floor area of such room. Whenever walls or other portions of structures face a window of any habitable room and are located less than three feet from the window and extended to a level above that of the ceiling of the room, such a window shall not be included in calculating the required minimal total window area.

(b) Every dwelling shall be provided with electric service.

(c) Every habitable room shall contain at least two separate wall type electric convenience outlets, or one such convenience outlet and one ceiling or wall type electric light fixture. Every such outlet and fixture shall be maintained in good and safe condition, and shall be connected to the source of electric power. No temporary wiring shall be used except extension cords which run directly from portable electric fixtures to convenience outlets, and which do not lie under rugs or other floor coverings nor extend through doorways, transoms, or other openings through structural elements.