



City of Laguna Niguel

Building Division

30111 Crown Valley Pkwy
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677
(949) 362-4360
www.CityofLagunaNiguel.org

KITCHEN REMODEL

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A permit is required for kitchen remodels that include removal and replacement and/or relocation of kitchen cabinets, countertops, sink, dishwasher, new/altered island or replacement/alteration to the electrical, & exhaust hood. A permit is not required for kitchen countertop replacement or re-facing of the existing cabinets. If a permit is required it must be obtained prior to the start of the remodel. **This handout is for information and reference only, and is not a substitute for plans prepared for each project.**

The following is a list of the general requirements based on the 2025 California Electrical Code (CRC), 2025 California Mechanical Code (CMC), and 2025 California Plumbing Code (CPC), 2025 California Energy Code (CEnC), 2025 California Green Building Standards Code (CalGreen) and the California Civil Code. Contact the Building & Safety Division for any questions or additional information, including requirements for new/altered plumbing (water, sewer, or gas lines) or mechanical (bathroom exhaust fan).

Water Conserving Plumbing Fixtures [California Civil Code 1101.4(a)]

The California Civil Code requires that all existing non-compliant plumbing fixtures (based on water efficiency) throughout the house be upgraded whenever a building permit is issued for remodeling improvements even if the fixtures are not within the scope of work. Residential Building constructed after January 1, 1994 are exempted from that requirement. The following table shows the fixtures that are considered to be non-compliant and the type of water-conserving plumbing fixture that should be installed.

Type of Fixture	Non-Compliant Plumbing Fixture	Required Water-Conserving Plumbing Fixture (max. rate) [CalGreen 4.303]
Water Closet (Toilet)	<u>More</u> than 1.6 gallons/flush	1.28 gallons/flush
Urinal	<u>More</u> than 1.0 gallon/flush	0.125 gallons/flush for wall mount; 0.50 for others
Showerhead	<u>More</u> than 2.5 gallons/minute	1.8 gallons/flush at 80 psi
Faucet-Bathroom	<u>More</u> than 2.2 gallons/minute	1.2 gallons/minute at 60 psi
Faucet- Kitchen	<u>More</u> than 2.2 gallons/minute	1.8 gallons/minute at 60 psi

Plumbing

- The hot water valve shall be installed on the left side where two separate handles control are provided [CPC 417.5]
- Traps for Island sinks shall be roughed in above the floor and maybe vented by extending the vent as high as possible, but not less than the drain board height and then returning it downward and connecting it to the horizontal sink drain immediately downstream from the vertical fixture drain. [CPC 909]

Kitchen Lighting Requirements

- All installed luminaire (lighting) shall be high efficacy in accordance with CEnC Table 150.0-A
- Cabinet (in and under) lighting shall be switched separately from other lighting systems.
- All recessed lighting shall be "IC Rated and Airtight Certified." [CEnC 150.0 (k) (C-ii)]
- For occupancies with a horizontal (floor/ ceiling) assembly fire-rated separation, the recessed fixtures shall be protected to the same rating of the separation (1-hour) **OR** be listed for the required fire protection. This generally applies to residential condominium construction where units are above or below other units. [CBC 714.4.2]

Electrical

- Countertop receptacles shall meet all of the following requirements: [CEC 210.8, 210.52, 406.12]
 - All receptacles shall be GFCI protected and tamper-resistant (TR).
 - Wall receptacle shall be provided at all wall countertop spaces with a minimum dimension of 12” wide
 - Be located so that no point along the wall line is more than 4’ measured horizontally from the receptacles on the counter space.
 - Island receptacle outlets when provided, shall be installed in accordance with 2025 CEC 210.50(C)(2)(a) and (C)(2)(b).
 - (a) At least one receptacle shall be provided for the first 9 square feet, or fraction thereof, of the countertop or work surface.
 - (b) At least one receptacle shall be located within 2 feet of the outer end of a peninsular countertop work surface. Additional required receptacle outlets shall be permitted to be located as determined by the installer, designer, or building owner and in accordance with 210.52(C)(3).
- All receptacles at the following location shall be GFCI protected and tamper-resistant (TR):
 - Within 6-ft of the outside edge of sink.
 - Supplying dishwashers.
- The GFCI shall be installed in a readily accessible location.
- Kitchen receptacles shall be supplied by circuits meeting all of the following requirements: [CEC 210.11(c), 210.52, 422.16]
 - Minimum of two 20-Amp small-appliance branch circuits shall be provided to serve all wall & floor receptacles, and countertop receptacles. No small-appliance branch circuit shall serve more than one kitchen.
 - A dedicated circuit is required for cord and plug connected range exhaust hoods. Separate circuits may be required for the garbage disposal, dishwasher and built-in microwave based on the manufacture’s requirements and the motor rating.
 - The existing electrical panel may need to be upgraded or a sub-panel added, if the requirements above cannot be accommodated.
- All 120-V, single-phase, 15-and 20-amp branch circuits that supply outlets or devices installed in kitchens shall be AFCI protected. The AFCI shall be installed in a readily accessible location. [CEC 210.12]

Kitchen Hood Ventilation

- Local exhaust system shall be installed in the kitchen and vented to the outdoors (recirculation prohibited) with a minimum exhaust rate as indicated in the table below. [CEnC 150(o), ASHRAE std. 62.2]

Application	Intermittent		Continuous	
	Min. Flow Rate	Notes	Min. Flow Rate	Notes
Kitchen	100 CFM	Vented Range hood required if exhaust fan flow is less than 100 CFM	5 Air changes per hr	Based on kitchen volume

- Ducts used for kitchen range ventilation shall be of metal and have smooth interior surface. Aluminum flex duct is prohibited. A back draft damper shall be provided. [CMC 504.3, 504.1.1]
- Upper cabinets shall be a minimum of 30” above cooking top. Cabinets and kitchen range hood shall be installed with the minimum clearances as required by the range/cooktop manufacture’s installation instructions. [CMC 921.3.2]

Energy (Title-24)

- All Exterior walls exposed during construction shall be insulated with min R-13 [CEnC 150.2(b), 150.0 (C)]
- All Roofing/Ceiling exposed during construction shall be insulated with min R-19 [CEnC 150.2(b), 150.0(a)1]
- All accessible joints, penetrations and other openings in the building envelope about the area of work shall be caulked, gasketed, weather stripped or otherwise sealed. [CEnC 110.7]

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	Building Official		
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Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms

- Smoke alarms shall be installed in each sleeping room, on the ceiling or wall outside each sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms, on each story of a multistory unit, in habitable attics, and in basements [CRC R314.3]
- Smoke alarms shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 217 and installed in accordance with the provisions of NFPA 72. Alarms shall be tested and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Alarms that no longer function must be replaced.
- Carbon Monoxide alarms are not required if there is no fuel-burning appliances or fireplace in the unit and where the garage is detached from the unit. [CRC 315.2.1]
- Carbon Monoxide alarms shall be installed on the ceiling or wall (above the door header) outside each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms, on each story of a multistory unit, in basements and bedrooms where a fuel-burning appliance is located within the bedroom or its attached bathroom. [CRC 315.3]
- Carbon monoxide alarms (including smoke and carbon monoxide combination alarms) shall be listed in accordance with UL 2034 (and UL 217 for combo alarms) and installed and maintained in accordance with NFPA 720 & manufactures instructions.
- In Multifamily buildings, all required smoke and carbon monoxide alarms shall be equipped with the capability to support visible alarm notification in accordance with NFPA 720.

Green Building Standards

- Adhesives, sealants, caulks, paints & coatings shall comply with the VOC limits. [CalGreen 4.504.2.1 & 4.504.2.2]
- Aerosol paints & coatings shall meet the Product-Weighted MIR limits for ROC [CalGreen 4.504.2.3]
- Minimum 80% of the installed resilient flooring shall comply with one or more certified products per CalGreen Section 4.504.4
- Interior use of hardwood plywood particle board, and medium density fiberboard composite wood products shall comply with the formaldehyde limits per CalGreen Table 4.504.5
- New framing shall not be enclosed when the framing members have a moisture context exceeding 19% [CalGreen 4.505.3]

Permit Approval Requirements

- A completed building permit application. (Plan review may be done over the counter depending on complexity of the remodel)
- Provide the following plans for review: (total of 3 copies must be provided)
 - Site Plan (not required to be to scale) to show the property lines at all sides, outline of existing structures on the lot, location of the public streets/alleys/easements and a north arrow. Approximately identify/highlight the location of the area of work
 - Floor Plan with dimensions about the remodeled area. Partial floor plan is allowed, but must show adjacent rooms/areas. Show all proposed work on the plan.
 - If the kitchen layout will be changed, then an existing floor plan and a proposed floor plan must be provided. If walls are being demolished, then an existing framing layout is required to determine if the wall is bearing or non-load bearing. Engineering may be required.

Inspections

A Minimum of two inspections are required for kitchen remodels. A rough electrical inspection should be scheduled after the electrical boxed are installed and prior to any devices being connected. Any other structural, mechanical or plumbing alterations should also be scheduled for a rough inspection. The final inspection should be scheduled once all the work has been completed.

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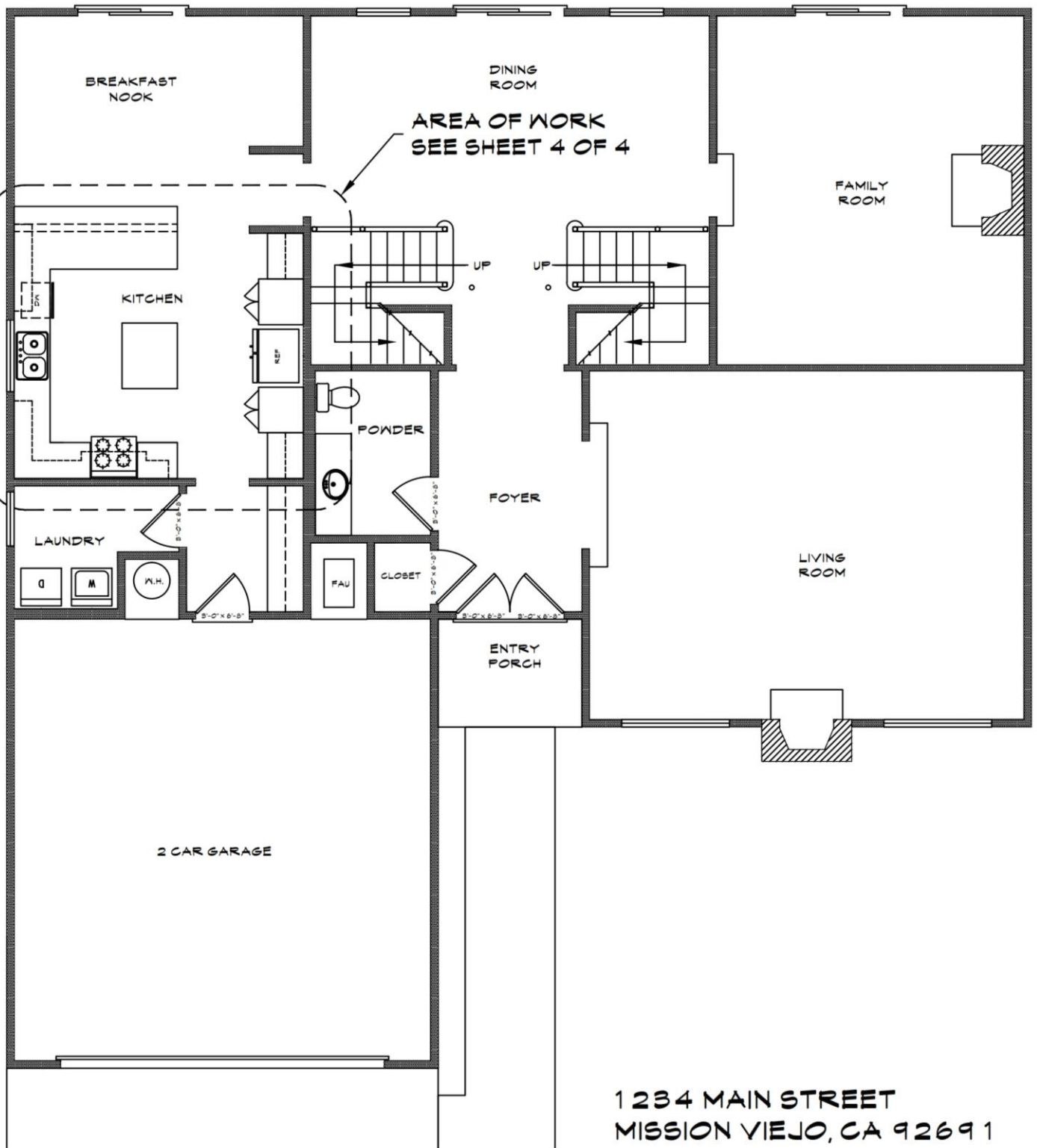
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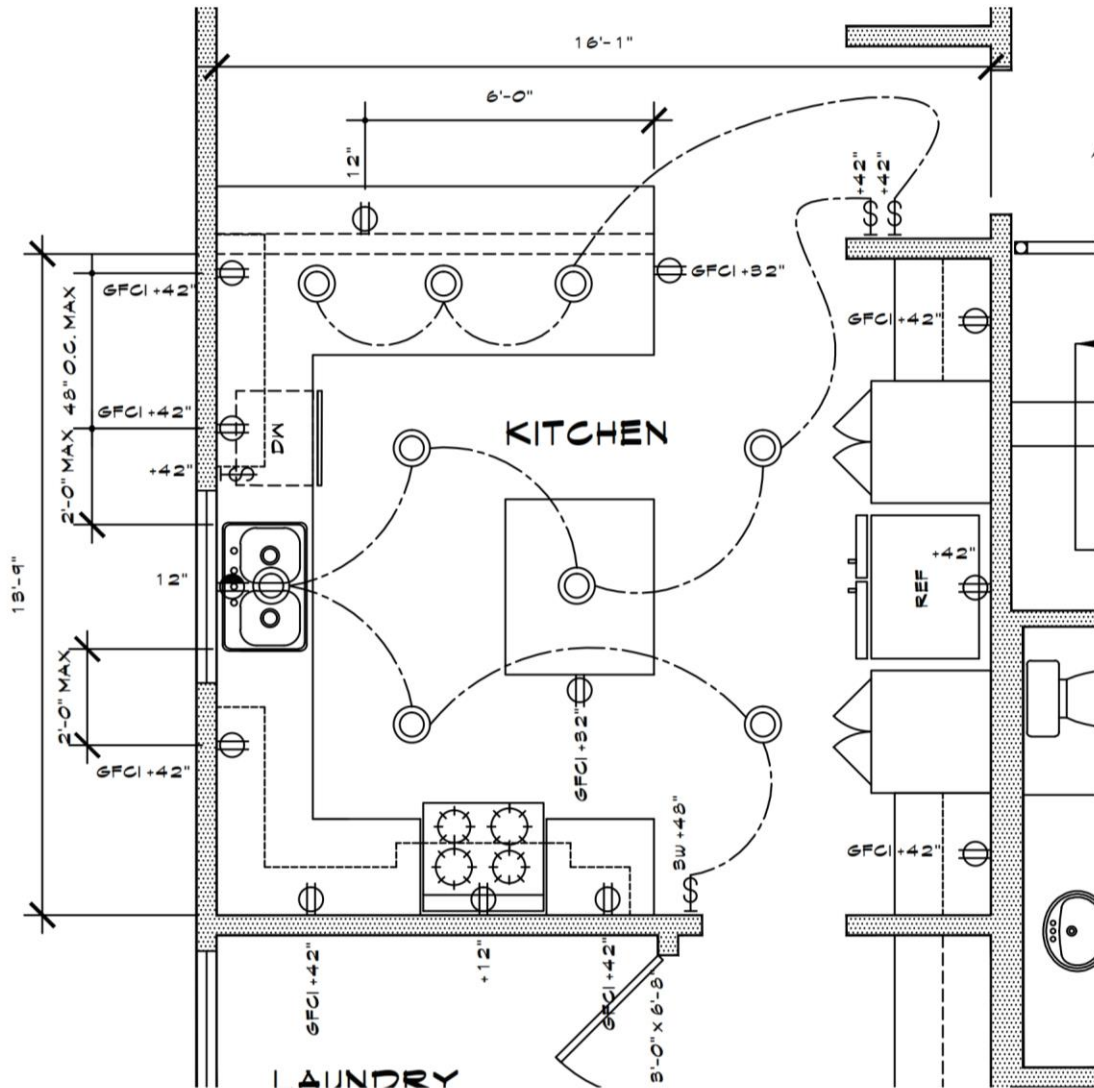
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- ⊕ SW +48" 3 WAY SWITCH
- ⊕ +12" DUPLEX RECEPTACLE
- ⊕ +12" HALF HOT RECEPTACLE
- ⊙ NEW LED RECESSED LIGHT

FLOOR AREA = 221 SQ. FT.
 SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

1234 MAIN STREET
 MISSION VIEJO, CA 92691

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