

## USE AND OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATIONS

Both the New NYC Construction Codes and the 1968 Building Code include chapters that define provisions to classify all buildings, structures, and spaces as to use and occupancy. One important distinction between these chapters is in the assignment of *shorthand* designation letters. Chapter 1, Subchapter 3 of the 1968 Building Code assigned these letters sequentially in descending order of hazard to life safety. Chapter 3 of the 2008 Building Code is more logical and uses the first letter of the occupancy type for the shorthand designations. For example, the 1968 code classifies residential occupancies as “J” whereas the 2008 code use “R.” The 2008 Codes Use and Occupancy Classifications are as follows:

- Group **A** – Assembly
- Group **B** – Business
- Group **E** – Educational
- Group **F** – Factory
- Group **H** – High Hazard
- Group **I** – Institutional
- Group **M** – Mercantile
- Group **R** – Residential
- Group **S** – Storage
- Group **U** – Utility and Miscellaneous

Many of the general classifications are subdivided to accommodate characteristics unique to that occupancy. For example, **Group S Storage** occupancies are divided into **Group S-1 Moderate Hazard Storage** and **Group S-2 Low Hazard Storage**. The following table provides a comprehensive listing of all of the 2008 Building Code Occupancy Classifications with each respective nearest equivalent in the 1968 Building Code. The classifications of the 2008 Building Code are not necessarily exact matches to the classifications of the 1968 Code. Furthermore, some specific uses are classified differently in the 2008 Code as compared to the 1968 Code. The table is provided for information purposes only and is not to be used as a substitute for the actual Code text.

## Additional Resources

If you have any questions regarding the new NYC Construction Codes, please email:

[ConstructionCodes@buildings.nyc.gov](mailto:ConstructionCodes@buildings.nyc.gov)



You can view individual chapters of the new NYC Construction Codes. On the Code web page, select the link to the NYC Construction Codes and then click the [“item-by-item”](#) link.

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2008 Code	OCCUPANCY DESCRIPTION	1968 Code
<b>A</b>	<b>Assembly: Groups A-1, A-2, A-3, A-4, and A-5</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>A-1</b>	with fixed seating, intended for production and viewing of the performance arts or motion pictures	<b>F-1a</b>
<b>A-2</b>	food and/or drink consumption	<b>F-4</b>
<b>A-3</b>	worship, recreation or amusement (physically active), and other assembly uses not classified elsewhere in Group A	<b>F-3,F-1b, F-4</b>
<b>A-4</b>	indoor sporting events with spectator seating	<b>F-1b</b>
<b>A-5</b>	participation in or viewing outdoor activities	<b>F-2</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>Business:</b> office, professional, service-type transaction, public or civic services	<b>E</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>Educational:</b> 5 or more persons at any time for educational purposes	<b>G</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>Factory and industrial: Groups F-1 and F-2</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>F-1</b>	moderate-hazard	<b>D-1</b>
<b>F-2</b>	involve non-combustible, non-flammable materials, or low-hazardous production	<b>D-2</b>
<b>H</b>	<b>High Hazard: Groups H-1, H-2, H-3, H-4, and H-5</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>H-1</b>	materials that present a detonation hazard	<b>A</b>
<b>H-2</b>	uses present a deflagration hazard or a hazard from accelerated burning	<b>A</b>
<b>H-3</b>	materials that readily support combustion or present a physical hazard	<b>A</b>
<b>H-4</b>	materials that are health hazards	<b>none</b>
<b>H-5</b>	semiconductor fabrication facilities using hazardous production materials (HPM) in excess of the permitted aggregate quantity	<b>D-1</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>Institutional: Groups I-1, I-2, I-3, and I-4</b>	<b>H, J-2</b>
<b>I-1</b>	housing persons, on a <b>24-hour basis, capable of self-preservation</b> and responding to an emergency situation without physical assistance from staff	<b>J-2</b>
<b>I-2</b>	medical, surgical, nursing or custodial care, on a <b>24-hour basis</b> , of more than 3 persons, who are <b>not capable of self-preservation</b> or responding to an emergency situation without physical assistance from staff	<b>H-2</b>
<b>I-3</b>	more than 5 persons who are <b>detained</b> under <b>restraint</b> or <b>security</b> reason	<b>H-1</b>
<b>I-4</b>	<b>day care</b> facilities, occupied by persons of <b>any age</b> who receive <b>custodial care</b> (without overnight) by individuals other than parents, guardians, or relatives in a place other than at the home	<b>H-2</b>
<b>M</b>	<b>Mercantile: display and sale</b> of merchandise	<b>C</b>
<b>R</b>	<b>Residential: Groups R-1, R-2, and R-3</b>	<b>J</b>
<b>R-1</b>	occupied <b>transiently</b> (for less than one month)	<b>J-1</b>
<b>R-2</b>	<b>more than 2 dwelling units</b> on a <b>long term basis</b> (for a month or more)	<b>J-2</b>
<b>R-3</b>	<b>not more than 2 apartments</b> on a <b>long term basis</b> (for a month or more)	<b>J-3</b>
<b>S</b>	<b>Storage: Groups S-1, and S-2</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>S-1</b>	<b>moderate-hazard</b> storage occupancy for any <b>flammable</b> or <b>combustible</b> materials	<b>B-1</b>
<b>S-2</b>	<b>low-hazard</b> storage occupancy for <b>non-combustible</b> materials	<b>B-2</b>
<b>U</b>	<b>Utility and Miscellaneous:</b> structures of an <b>accessory</b> character, or <b>not classified in any specific occupancy</b>	<b>K</b>