## **Electrical Boxes & the New Energy Code**

On April 15, 2000, the State Legislature adopted two distinct Energy Codes for one- and two-family residential dwellings. **New** one- and two-family dwellings are governed by the "category one" requirements of the old Energy Code (MR 7670) or as an alternate, the new home builder can build according to the requirements of the new Energy Code (MR 7672).

Both MR 7670 and MR 7672 require sealing of penetrations in the building envelope for the service entrance, wires, conduit, cables, panels, recessed light fixtures, electrical boxes and fan housings.

Repair, remodeling or additions to **existing** one- and two-family residential buildings originally constructed prior to April 15, 2000 is governed by the "category 2" requirements of the old Energy Code (MR7670). "Category 2" construction requires sealing of penetrations in the building envelope for the service entrance, wires, conduit, cables, panels and recessed light fixtures, **but not electrical boxes and fan housings**.

Therefore, in Summary:

New one- and two-family homes require all electrical penetrations to be sealed.

Repair, remodeling and additions to homes built prior to April 15, 2000 require sealing of all electrical penetrations except electrical boxes and fan housings.

Repair, remodeling and additions to homes built after April 15, 2000 are governed by the new Energy Code (MR 7672), which requires that all penetrations in the building envelope be sealed