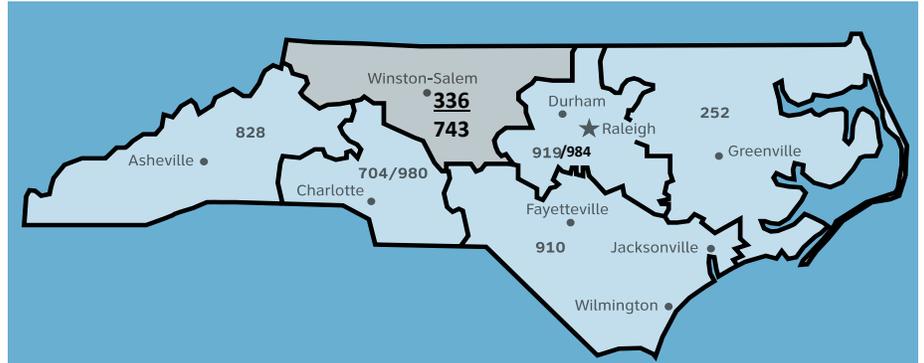


Area Code Overlay Approved for the North Carolina 336 Area Code

To ensure a continuing supply of telephone numbers, the new 743 area code will be added to the area served by 336. This is known as an area code overlay. **Get ready to change the way you dial your local calls!**

What is an area code overlay?

An overlay is the addition of another area code (743) to the same geographic region as an existing area code (336). **An overlay does not require customers to change their existing area code or telephone number but it will require ALL callers to dial 10 digits for local area calls.**



Who will be affected?

The 336 area code generally covers the Piedmont area and includes the cities of High Point, North Wilkesboro, Winston-Salem, Greensboro and Asheville. The new **743 area code** will serve the same geographic area currently served by the existing 336 area code.

What will be the new dialing procedure?

To complete local calls, the new dialing procedure requires callers to dial **area code + telephone number**. This means that all calls in the 336 area code that are currently dialed with seven digits will need to be dialed using **area code + telephone number**. The same dialing procedure will apply to telephone numbers assigned to the new 743 area code. However, the price of local calls made today by dialing 7 digits will not change when 10 digits are dialed for the new overlay area code. Long distance dialing will not change but will still require dialing 1 + area code + telephone number.

When will the change begin?

Effective **October 24, 2015**, you should begin using the new dialing procedures whenever you place a call from the 336 area code. If you forget and dial just seven digits, there will be a temporary grace period and your call will still be completed.

However, beginning **April 23, 2016**, use of the new dialing procedures will be mandatory. After this date, if you do not use the new dialing procedures, your calls will not be completed and a recording will instruct you to hang up and dial again.

Beginning **May 23, 2016**, new telephone lines or services may be assigned numbers using the new 743 area code. Existing numbers will not be changed.

What will you need to do?

REMEMBER: In addition to changing your dialing procedures, all services, automatic dialing equipment, or other types of equipment that are programmed with a 7-digit number will need to be **reprogrammed** to use the new dialing procedures. Some examples are life safety systems, PBXs, mobile phone contact lists, fax machines, Internet dial-up numbers, alarm and security systems, gates, speed dialers, call forwarding settings, voicemail services, etc. You may also want to check your business stationery, website, or advertising materials, and your pet's or your personal ID tags to ensure the area code is included.

What will remain the same?

- Your telephone number, including current area code, will not change.
- The price of a call, coverage area, or other rates and services will not change due to the overlay.
- What is a local call now will remain a local call regardless of the number of digits dialed.
- You can still dial just three digits to reach 911.
- If 211, 311, 411, 511, 611, 711 or 811 are currently available in your community, you will still dial these codes with just three digits.

Who may you contact with questions?

If you have any questions regarding information provided in this notice, please call Ready Telecom, Inc. at 336.610.3001 or access the following websites for more information: www.readytelecom.com or <http://www.ncuc.net/>.