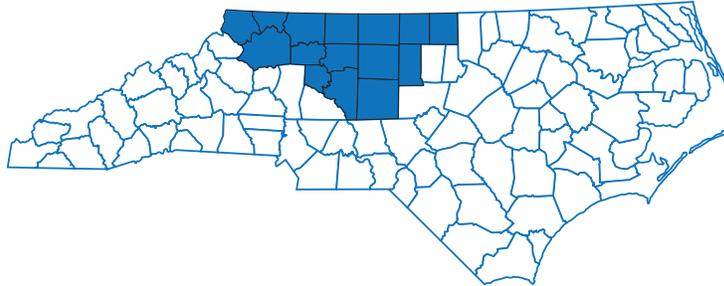


Mandatory 10-Digit Dialing is Coming

New area code 743 will overlay the 336 area code region bringing 10-digit dialing to Ashe & Alleghany



Here is what your business needs to do to be prepared!

You won't have to change telephone numbers. The new **743** area code will be assigned only for new telephone numbers within the area code region. Therefore, you will not have to change your present number, but the way you dial in the **336 area code region** will change.

Effective **April 23, 2016**, 10-digit dialing - the appropriate area code (**336 or 743**) plus the seven-digit telephone number - will be necessary for local and expanded local calls to be completed. It will not be necessary to dial a "1" or "0" when dialing your local and expanded local calls. Local calling areas and rates will not be affected by this change. Special services that use three-digit numbers, such as 911 and 411, as well as 1+ 10-digit long distance remain unchanged.

Start early using 10-digit dialing on October 24, 2015 so it will be second nature by the time it is required on April 23, 2016.

What you should do to get ready for 10-digit dialing now:

- Make sure your websites, stationery, advertising materials and checks include your area code. Since your area code remains the same, there is no need to reprint if these items already contain your area code.

What you should do between October 24, 2015 and April 23, 2016:

- Update all stored local telephone numbers to include the area code for services such as call forwarding, call blocking and voicemail, and for equipment, such as wireless phones.
- You may need to reprogram or upgrade equipment such as fax machines, dial-up modems, Internet connections, multi-line key or PBX systems, or any equipment with automatic dialing features.
- Customers who have security systems need to contact their vendor to determine reprogramming needs for 10-digit local dialing.

If you have questions about **North Carolina's** new area code, please call **1-800-759-2226** or stop by a local customer center.