

Arizona's New 480 and 623 Area Codes Are Here.

Arizona is running out of telephone number prefixes in the region served by the 602 area code. This is happening because of increased demand for new telephone numbers used for such services as fax machines, pagers, wireless telephones, second telephone lines, voice mail and other competitive services. To remedy this situation, Arizona is adding two new area codes – 480 and 623. As a result of the new area codes, it will be necessary to dial ten-digits for local calls between select area codes.

Effective Dates. On April 1, 1999, the area code changes will go into effect. That is the beginning of a transition period during which callers will be able to use either the new or old area code and dialing pattern to complete a call. This period will allow callers time to become accustomed to dialing the new area codes, and to reprogram and prepare telephone equipment before the mandatory date. Mandatory use of the 480 and 623 area codes will begin on September 1, 1999.

Ten-digit local dialing. The introduction of Arizona's new 480 and 623 area codes will not affect your local calling area (that area in which all calls are local). However, the way you dial local calls between the 602 and 480 and 623 area codes will change. To make a local call between area codes, it will be necessary to dial ten-digits (the three-digit area code plus the seven-digit phone number). Do not dial a "1" or "0" before the area code when dialing a local call. Dialing a "1" incorrectly may prevent the call from being completed.

To complete a local call within the same area code, dial only the seven-digit telephone number. However, any local call can be made by using all ten-digits. From April 1, 1999, through September 1, 1999, callers may dial either seven or ten-digit local phone numbers and either the new 480, 623 or current 602 area code. On September 1, 1999, ten-digit dialing becomes mandatory for local calls between the 602 and 480 or 623 area codes.

The following chart illustrates the different types of telephone dialing. The example assumes that the caller is in the 602 area code.

Type of Call	Required Dialing	Example	Charge
Within local calling area, in same area code	7 - or 10-digit dialing	555-1023 or 602-555-1023	None
Within local calling area, to another area code	10-digit dialing	480-555-0123 or 623-555-0123	None
Direct-dial Long distance	"1" plus 10 digits	1-520-555-9876	Regular Charge
Operator-assisted Long distance	"0" plus 10 digits	0-520-555-9876	Regular Charge

How the new area codes will impact my home telephone service. If you have a new area code, notify those who call you and make plans to change your area code on such things as stationary and checks. If appropriate, notify your alarm monitoring company of your ten-digit number. Also, be sure to reprogram any automatic-dial or speed-dial numbers and fax machines before September 1, 1999. Beginning April 1, 1999, if you experience difficulty calling the new area codes, contact your telephone system vendor.



Be sure everyone in your household knows your full ten-digit number and understands how to place local calls using the ten-digit pattern. Pay particular attention to the needs of children, the disabled, and the elderly.

How ten-digit local dialing impacts business telephone service. Between April 1, 1999 and September 1, 1999, businesses in the 602 area code should make sure they are ready for mandatory ten-digit dialing.

- Make sure your telecommunications equipment (such as PBX systems, burglar alarms or security systems, electronic telephone sets, auto-dial systems or multi-line key systems) can complete local calls using ten digits. You may need to reprogram or upgrade your equipment to accept Arizona's 602, 480 and 623 area code numbers. Contact your equipment provider to ask about available options and changes to your equipment that may be necessary. Changes to your equipment need to be made before September 1, 1999.
- If you have call-forwarding, automatic-dial or speed-dial featured, re-enter existing local numbers with ten-digit numbers if the area code is different from your area code.
- Inform customers, clients, colleagues and vendors that dialing local calls to your business may require ten digits if their area code is different than yours. Suggest that they contact their telephone system vendor to ask about changes that may be required.
- Update all printed materials, such as stationary, checks, business cards, advertisements, brochures and catalogs to include your ten-digit number.
- Notify your alarm service provider to update records and equipment.

Other communications services that might be affected by ten-digit dialing.

- Owners of coin-operated telephones should con-