

What you need to apply for a building permit:



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DIRECTIONS

1. Submit 2 complete sets of required information.
2. Draw a floor plan with dimensions to scale, showing the layout of the entire basement. Label the use for all of the rooms. Distinguish existing from new and finished from unfinished.
3. Show electrical outlets, smoke detectors, lighting, fans, plumbing modifications, cleanouts, furnace and water heater. Indicate whether equipment is electric or gas.
4. List window sizes and types, identify emergency escape and rescue windows.
5. Identify modifications to the existing structure such as posts, beams and floor joists.
6. Indicate where dropped ceiling areas are less than 7 feet.
7. Show clearance around the tub and fixtures.

Why Do I need a Permit?

There are many important reasons to obtain building permits and to have inspections performed for your construction project.

Protects property values

Your home is typically your largest investment. If your construction project does not comply with the building codes, your investment could lose value. If others in your neighborhood make unsafe or substandard changes to their homes, it could lower the resale values for the entire community.

Saves Money

Homeowners insurance policies may not pay for damages caused by work done without permits and inspections.

Makes Selling Property Easier

Listing associations require owners to disclose any home improvements or repairs and whether permits were obtained. Many financial institutions will not finance a purchase without proof of a final inspection. If you decide to sell a home or building that has had modifications without a permit, you may be required to tear down the addition, leave it unoccupied or do costly repairs.

Improves safety

Your permit allows the building department to inspect for potential hazards and unsafe construction. By ensuring your project meets the minimum building code standards of safety, the building department can reduce the risk of fire, structural collapse and other issues that might result in costly repairs, injuries and even death. Inspections complement the contractor's experience and act as a system of checks and balances that can result in a safer project.

It's the Law

Permits are required by Ordinance. Work without a permit may be subject to removal or other costly remedies.

Tips on hiring contractors

- ◆ Get at least 3 bids.
- ◆ Get 3 references, and ask to see a project.
- ◆ Get it in writing, but before you sign the contract, make sure you completely understand.
- ◆ Do not make final payment until you have received a Certificate of Occupancy (CO) or until final inspections have passed
- ◆ **Have the contractor apply for the required permits.**