



When Do I Need A Permit?

- Building or remodeling a house
- Re-roofing or re-siding
- Putting up a shed with greater than 200 square feet of floor area
- Installing a fireplace, wood stove, or chimney
- Finishing a basement
- Adding a garage or addition
- Changing or installing heating
- Installing plumbing
- Constructing a retaining wall over four feet in height
- Putting up a deck or porch
- Putting up a fence over seven feet in height (call for information on lesser fences to avoid common problems)
- Doing electrical work (electrical permits are issued through the state)
- Grading that involves more than adding topsoil
- Installing or altering a septic system
- Hooking up to City sewer and water
- Above-ground swimming pools greater than 24 inches in depth and exceeding 5,000 gallons
- All below-ground pools
- Changing or installing windows

When is a Building Permit Not Required?

- Detached accessory buildings with less than 200 square feet of floor area (must be anchored and meet setback requirements)
- Movable cases, counters and partitions not over 5 feet 9 inches high
- Retaining walls less than four feet high unless acting as a dike for impounding liquids
- Platforms, walk, and driveways not over 30 inches above grade, not over a basement or story below and not attached to a house
- Painting, papering and similar work
- Window awnings not projecting more than 54 inches
- Prefabricated swimming pools that are 24 inches or less in depth, or to not exceed 5,000 gallons, and are installed entirely above ground

Doing The Work Yourself

Call the Building Department at 763-856-4666, ext. 21 to find out what is required. The department has numerous handouts on various projects that will be helpful for doing it right.

Detailed plans of what you are proposing to construct are required. If your proposed work does not meet codes, it is easier to change it on paper than once you have built it.