

# THE CITY OF BOISE'S GUIDE TO **RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION**



## WHY DO I NEED A PERMIT?

When you get the proper permits for your construction work, you are protecting your home and family. The City of Boise wants to ensure that your home is structurally sound, free of fire hazards, and safe to occupy. Requiring permits provides a permanent record of the work performed and the inspections conducted on the project.

Homeowners are encouraged to request a conference with the inspector before starting work.

## CAN I DO THE WORK MYSELF?

Homeowners may perform work on their primary residence without registering as a contractor with the State of Idaho.

- If you act as the sub-contractor on your project, you must get a permit for the work and perform the work yourself.
- If you're not doing all of the work yourself (such as electrical, plumbing or mechanical work), the person performing the work must be a State of Idaho registered and licensed contractor in that trade.

## REQUIRED PERMITS

### MECHANICAL PERMITS

- Install or change any part of a heating or cooling system which has ductwork or must be vented to any kind of chimney or vent
- Install a wood stove or fireplace insert
- Install, alter or repair gas piping between meter and an appliance (indoor or outdoors)
- Install a fuel oil tank or install or replace a gas water heater
- Exhaust bath fans or dryer vents

### ELECTRICAL PERMITS

- Install, change or repair any hard wired electrical system
- Run any additional wiring, put in an additional electrical outlet or light fixture or change out your fuse box to circuit breakers.
- Add an outlet or switch in any room
- An electrical conference with the inspector is required before starting work

### PLUMBING PERMITS

- Repair, replace, relocate or add to the piping system within your home
- Install new plumbing fixtures such as toilets, sinks, showers, tubs, dishwashers, etc.
- Install or replace an electric water heater
- Replace existing fixtures if concealed plumbing is required
- Replumb pipes

### EROSION/SEDIMENT CONTROL PERMITS

- New one or two family dwelling, ADU or detached garage
- Residential additions or improvements greater than 500 sq. ft. disturbance and/or excavating greater than 10 cubic yards (includes swimming pools)

### BUILDING PERMITS

- Build a one or two family dwelling
- Finish an attic, garage or basement to create living space
- Build, demolish or add a room, garage or shed, carport or other attached structure
- Build, demolish or move any detached garage or shed that is more than 200 sq. ft. in area
- New, replacement windows or door openings, widen or reduce the size of existing openings
- Move, remove or add walls
- Re-roof an existing structure
- Build a retaining wall that is measured 4 feet high or more from the bottom of the footing to the top of the wall or a 2 foot retaining wall that has a slope/surcharge (requires engineering)
- Build a deck more than 12 inches high, or put up a fence more than seven feet high
- Construct/add patio cover, carport or porch, or enclose them or any other attached roof area
- Pour sidewalks slabs and driveways more than 30 inches above adjacent grade or any story or basement

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## MORE INFORMATION

PHONE: 208-608-7070 | TTY 800-377-3529

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# DO I NEED A BUILDING PERMIT?

## CONCRETE PATIO/DECK

A building permit is required when a deck or concrete patio is more than 12 inches above grade. Please contact the Planning Department at 208-608-7100 for setback information.

## DIGGING/EXCAVATION

An erosion and sediment control (ESC) permit is required whenever 10 cubic yards or more of earth is disturbed at a site. Contractors required to obtain an ESC permit must have an ESC Responsible Person Certification; homeowners doing the work are exempt from certification requirements.

## DRIVEWAY

No building permit is required, but you need Planning and Zoning approval. Call 208-608-7100.

## FOUNDATIONS

All buildings are required to have a foundation with the only exemption being for frost depth. Accessory buildings less than 600 sq. ft. are not required to have foundations which extend to the 24" frost depth, but require a minimum 12" wide foundation to a minimum depth of 12" below grade. There are several options, including a crushed stone foundation or pier (see city policy) if a concrete strip foundation is not desirable.

## GARDEN SHED

A permit is required if located in a floodplain. A building permit is not required as long as the structure is 200 sq. ft. or less. See the #406 checklist for submittal requirements, and confirm your property setbacks with Planning and Zoning. Call 208-608-7100.

## HISTORIC DISTRICTS

Building permit requirements are the same as in non-historic districts. However, many types of work (windows, siding and tree removal) require a Certificate of Appropriateness from Planning and Zoning. Call 208-608-7100 for information.

The Certificate of Appropriateness must be obtained prior to applying for a building permit or starting any work.

## KITCHEN/BATHROOM/INTERIOR

The building code exempts interior work such as painting, floor covering, cabinets, counter tops and wall coverings from permit requirements. A permit is required if the project removes wall coverings to expose the framing; builds a wall or partition (whether bearing or non-bearing) or relocates sinks, tubs, showers or water closets which require plumbing. See the #406 checklist for submittal requirements. Adding a second kitchen requires approval from Planning and Zoning. Call 208-608-7100.

## OUTDOOR LIGHTING

An electrical permit is not required if the outdoor lighting is low voltage. A permit is required for 110 volt lighting.

## PERGOLA/GAZEBO

Stand-alone structures that exceed 200 sq. ft. in area require a building permit. Gazebo/pergola type structures are usually not of typical "light frame construction" and are treated as pole construction projects that require "structural engineering" done by an Idaho licensed engineer. Height restrictions may apply in some areas. Please contact the Planning Department at 208-608-7100 for setback information.

## SMALL ATTACHED PATIO COVER

A permit is required for any attached patio cover, regardless of size. Patio covers that meet the requirements of the Residential Patio Cover Construction Policy may not require engineering from an Idaho licensed engineer. See the #406 checklist for submittal requirements.

## WHICH PERMIT DO I NEED?

If you're not sure if your project requires a permit, please call 208-608-7070.

## FOR ANYTHING ELSE

- **PLUMBING PERMITS** are required for most bathroom remodels when fixtures are replaced.
- **ELECTRICAL PERMITS** are required when electrical fixtures are added (such as the required smoke alarms when a building permit is required).
- **MECHANICAL PERMITS** are required when vents and ducts are added, replaced or relocated. This includes dryer vents, range hood vents and extending heating ducts, adding registers and replacing furnaces and air conditioning units.

