



About Building Permits

Sometimes citizens view construction permits as a legal requirement that simply delays home improvement projects. Here in Oak Park however, the purpose of permits is to protect the health, safety and welfare of citizens.

WHEN DO I NEED A PERMIT?

Permits are required for most property improvement projects. Any work governed by the building, electrical, mechanical, plumbing or zoning codes requires a permit.

Improvements requiring a permit include (but are not limited to):

- Any new structure or addition to an existing structure, such as decks, garages, porches, porch roofs, fences and sheds.
- Alterations such as windows, countertops and cabinets; gutters and/or downspouts; the cutting of any wall or partition; landscaping involving concrete or pavers, finishing of furring or walls in basements or attics; and any work involving the extension or alteration of electrical, plumbing, heating or air conditioning systems.
- Repairs such as re-roofing, replacing sidewalks, driveways or patios, rebuilding porches, guardrails or stairs.

Examples of improvements that do not require a permit include:

- Painting and wall covering.
- Installing new floor covering.
- Trim work such as baseboards, moldings and interior doors.

WHY SHOULD I GET A PERMIT?

A permit is legal authority to begin a project and provides the benefit of inspections, which help ensure a project meets accepted minimum standards for safety and durability. Inspections are performed at various stages of a project to ensure compliance with construction codes. Compliance with local codes reduces risks to a level considered acceptable by construction trade organizations, product manufacturers and insurance companies.

HOW DO I GET PERMITS?

In order to receive a permit, an application must first be submitted at Village Hall. In some situations homeowners may do their own work. All contractors and subcontractors doing work in Oak Park must be registered with the Village.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO GET A PERMIT?

The amount of time it takes to receive a permit varies depending on the type of permit requested since the review time for permit applications varies depending on the scope of work. Contact the Building & Property Standards Department for an estimate on how long specific permits will take to receive.

Building & Property Standards Department

Village Hall
Building & Property Standards Dept.
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Oak Park, IL 60302

708.358.5430

www.oak-park.us, mouse-over to
Departments tab, then click on
Building & Property Standards

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