



City of Aitkin

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When are Permits Required?

Adopted 2004

In general, alterations to the building environment require a permit.

Minnesota State Building Code Section 1300.0120 Subpart 1. "An owner or authorized agent who intends to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish, or change the occupancy of a building or structure, or to erect, install, enlarge, alter, repair, remove, convert, or replace any gas, mechanical, electrical, plumbing system, or other equipment, the installation of which is regulated by the code; or cause any such work to be done, shall first make application to the building official and obtain the required permit."

Permits shall not be required for the following:

Building:

- retaining walls that are not over four feet in height measured from the bottom of the footing to the top of the wall, unless supporting a surcharge or impounding Class I, II, or III-A liquids
- sidewalks and driveways that are not part of an accessible route
- decks and platforms not more than 30 inches above adjacent grade and not attached to a structure with frost footings and which is not part of an accessible route (Accessible route = front door)
- painting, papering, tiling, carpeting, cabinets, countertops, and similar finish work
- temporary motion picture, television, and theater stage sets and scenery;
- prefabricated swimming pools installed entirely above ground accessory to dwelling units constructed to the provisions of the International Residential Code or R-3 occupancies constructed to the provisions of the International Building Code, which do not exceed both 5,000 gallons in capacity and a 24-inch depth

- window awnings supported by an exterior wall that do not project more than 54 inches from the exterior wall and do not require additional support, when constructed under the International Residential Code or Group R 3 and Group U occupancies constructed to the provisions of the International Building Code
- movable cases, counters, and partitions not over five feet, nine inches in height
- swings and other playground equipment

***Unless otherwise exempted, plumbing, electrical, and mechanical permits are required for items listed above.*

Gas:

- portable heating, cooking, or clothes drying appliances
- replacement of any minor part that does not alter approval of equipment or make the equipment unsafe; and
- portable fuel cell appliances that are not connected to a fixed piping system and are interconnected to a power grid.

Mechanical:

- portable heating appliances
- portable ventilation appliances and equipment
- portable cooling units
- steam, hot, or chilled water piping within any heating or cooling equipment regulated by this code
- replacement of any part that does not alter approval of equipment or make the equipment unsafe
- portable evaporative coolers
- self-contained refrigeration systems containing ten pounds or less of refrigerant or that are actuated by motors of one horsepower or less; and
- portable fuel cell appliances that are not connected to a fixed piping system and are not interconnected to a power grid.

Electrical:

a municipality must not require an electrical permit if the work falls under the jurisdiction of the commissioner or if the work is exempt from inspection under Minnesota Statutes, Section 326B.36, subdivision 7. This exemption does not exempt the work from other state building code requirement relating to electrical equipment.

Repairs:

If equipment replacements and repairs must be performed in an **emergency**, the permit application shall be submitted to the building official within the next working business day.

Application or notice to the building official is not required for ordinary repairs to structures. The repairs shall not include the opening or removal of any wall, partition, or portion of a wall or partition, the removal or cutting of any structural beam or load bearing support, or the removal or change of any required means of egress, or rearrangement of parts of a structure affecting the egress requirements; nor shall ordinary repairs include addition to, alteration of, replacement, or relocation of any standpipe, water supply, sewer, drainage, drain leader, gas, soil, waste, vent or similar piping, electric wiring, or mechanical or other work affecting public health or general safety.

Zoning Permits Required:

- Fence Permit
- Sign Permit