

Do I Need a Permit?

Permit requirements are specified by the State of North Carolina and enforced by the Northampton County Code Enforcement Department.

The requirements are as follows:

Building Permits

- All structural repairs or additions require a permit. Repair to any structure must be based on the present Building Code; it is highly recommended that owners seek the advice of a professional builder. Some structural repairs may require a letter from a professional engineer or architect.
- Retaining walls, decks, gazebos are structural. The inspector must inspect the hole or trench for the footer before concrete may be poured.
- Replacement of entire wall or roof sections and replacement of studs or rafters require a permit.
- Permits are required for roofing if you are changing the fire rating on the roof.
- A permit is required for single-family dwellings if the work is non-structural, and the entire project is more than \$15,000.

Mechanical Permits

- Installation of any new HVAC equipment/duct work requires a permit and load calculations.
- Installation of a Monitor Type direct vent heater requires a permit and must be done by a licensed NC mechanical contractor.
- Installation of piping or chimney lining: the installer does not require a license but must obtain a permit.

Electrical Permits

- All electrical work requires a permit.

Plumbing Permits

- New work – a permit is required for any new plumbing work done on fixed piping systems. This would include: installation of a vent for an unvented fixture, installation of a hot water tank (except some replacements) or installation of an expansion tank required on replacements).
- Repair work – no permit is required if the work is to repair the plumbing (referred to as “like for like”.) This would include: replacement of hot water tanks (must be same capacity and BTU rating), PRV valves and extension pipes, faucets, faucet washers, sink and tub drains, fixture traps and seals on toilets.

Who Can Do the Work?

- Rental units and dwelling units not occupied by the owner: Permitted work must be performed by Licensed NC Contractors. A copy of the contract/scope of the work is required.
- Primary Residence: Owners may perform building, plumbing, electrical, and mechanical work on their primary residence; however, the above permitting rules apply.

There may be additional times when a permit is required.

Please call our office if you have any questions.