

Common Questions and Key Information Regarding Plumbing Permits

When do I need a permit for plumbing work?

A plumbing permit is required when you:

- Replace a water heater or underground piping.
- Alter piping inside a wall, ceiling, or beneath a floor.
- Install a plumbing fixture where one did not exist previously.
- Make an emergency repair or alteration on a section of pipe five feet or longer.

A plumbing permit is not required when you:

- Repair or replace a sink, toilet, or faucet not concealed in the wall.
- Replace or repair countertops, shower heads, rain gutters, or downspouts.
- Resurface shower walls or regrout tile.
- Add to or alter an irrigation system with an existing approved backflow device.
- Install a water filter.
- Replace a hose bibb.
- Install a water feature or exterior hot tub that is filled by a hose.

If you are still not sure if you need a permit, check out PermitsProtect.info; it is a great resource for additional information.

Where do I get a permit for plumbing work?

Permits are issued by your local building department. Visit PermitsProtect.info to locate the proper jurisdiction based on your address.

How do I get a permit for plumbing work?

1. Locate your local building department.
2. Complete the permit application – Jurisdictions offer permit applications at their office and many also provide them online or via fax.
3. Pay the permit fee – Permit fees are based on the size and complexity of your project and are paid when the permit is issued.
4. Receive your permit – A permit will be issued in the name of the person performing the work and the work can begin once the permit has been issued.

How do I get an inspection?

If you are having the work done by a contractor, be sure you are both clear on who will be responsible for scheduling the inspection.

Follow these steps:

- Call the request line at the building department responsible for your area at least 24 hours in advance.
- When you call to make the appointment, have all the details (permit number, project address, etc.) available.
- If the work was done inside, an adult needs to be at the site for the inspection.

Some important reminders:

- If you have installed water piping, the work must be operational and exposed for the inspection.
- Inspectors may require that drainage piping be plugged and filled with water during the inspection.

How do I plan to do plumbing work on my home?

You have two options to get the work done, you can:

1. Hire a licensed plumbing contractor.
2. Do the work yourself without a license.

Anyone else who is not a licensed plumber legally can not do the work. This includes friends, neighbors, tenants, and general contractors.

Some important reminders:

- All materials must be listed and approved for their specific uses.
- If you hire a plumbing contractor, he or she must be licensed with the Construction Contractors Board.
- Journeyman plumbers must have a current license with the Oregon Building Codes Division.
- If you are using a licensed contractor, he or she must obtain all necessary permits for the work being performed.

If you have questions about whether you can work on a building, call the Building Codes Division, 503-378-4133 or 800-442-7457 (toll-free), or your local jurisdiction.

State of Oregon offices

Building Codes Division (toll-free) 800-442-7457
or 503-378-4133
Chief Plumbing Inspector 503-373-7488
Construction Contractors Board 503-378-4621
Better Business Bureau 503-226-3981

Attorney General's Consumer Hotline:

Portland 503-229-5576
Salem 503-378-4320
Toll-free 877-877-9392

Do I need a plumbing permit?



PermitsProtect.info

Safe Homes. Secure Investments. Smart Communities.



Building Codes Division

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P.O. Box 14470
Salem, OR 97309-0404

