



Building Permits

Phone 979-345-3123

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2015 International Building Codes

Who can get a Permit?

Residential permits on existing houses may be issued to the owner of the residential property or any contractor. A homeowner may act as the contractor on their own home but any contractors hired by the homeowner for plumbing, electrical, or HVAC work must be licensed by the State of Texas and insured. The owner of the property is responsible for full code compliance and conformity of the City of West Columbia rules and regulations. New construction must be conducted by a proficient contractor. New construction requires certified plans for the development including plot plans, site, drainage, foundation, exterior, interior, plumbing, electrical, mechanical, etc.

Plan Review and Permit fees

Once your permit application is submitted, it may go through a plan review process. Larger projects will generally take 10 -14 business days for review. At time of submittal, a plan review fee is paid. The plan review fee is one-half of the building permit fee. Fees for electrical, plumbing, and HVAC are based on an itemized chart.

Inspection

The homeowner, acting as the contractor, is responsible for calling for inspections; otherwise, the contractor working on the project will schedule inspections. Inspections are required during construction and upon completion. No portion of construction may be covered, concealed, or put into use until inspected and approved by a City of West Columbia Building Inspector. Call the Inspection Line at 979-345-3123 to schedule. Calls made before 3p.m. are scheduled for the next business day. Calls made after 3p.m., may be scheduled up to two business days later.

What Requires a Permit?

If your property is within the City's jurisdiction and you are erecting, constructing, enlarging, altering, repairing, improving, removing, converting, moving, demolishing any building, structure, or a portion thereof, or a tenant space within the structure, you are required to obtain City of West Columbia Permits.

Depending on the extent of work, one or more of the following permits may be required:

- Building
- Electrical
- Plumbing
- Mechanical (heating/air conditioning) ;and / or
- Development (site plan).

The following items do not require a permit:

- ***Inspection Fee Only**-One story detached accessory structures used as tool or storage sheds, playhouses and similar uses, provided the floor area does not exceed 120 sq. ft and the structure is placed according to setback requirements;
- Fences not over 6 feet high;
- Painting, papering, tiling, carpeting, countertops and similar finish work;
- Prefabricated swimming pools less than 24 inches deep; or
- Swings and other playground equipment.

REPAIRS: A permit shall not be required for ordinary minor repairs to a structure. For questions on ordinary repairs, call 979-345-3123.

EMERGENCY REPAIRS: Where equipment replacement or repairs must be performed in an emergency, the permit application must be submitted the next business day.

NEW ELECTRICAL SERVICE: Property owners requesting new service must, in addition to obtaining a city permit, submit a request with the electric company. This should be done as soon as possible to prevent delays in construction.

Other permits required:

- Garage sale
- Certificate of occupancy
- Moving manufactured houses into City of West Columbia
- Demolition of houses or commercial buildings
- Peddlers License
- Solicitors License
- Alcohol Permit