

PERMITS PROTECT

the safety & value of family, property & communities



How permits protect.

Access to Professionals

Permits protect by giving you access to professional building safety experts in your community. There are many types and sizes of construction projects and when your permit is issued a highly trained department will closely oversee every aspect of your project, regardless of its size. Every inspector in this department must be certified by the state in the area of work they are inspecting. Several different types of certification are needed for the construction of a structure and the most common are: Construction, Electric, HVAC and Plumbing. To acquire a certification in any one of these areas the following is needed: a great deal of knowledge and/or experience in the different aspects of building construction, extensive knowledge of codes in that certification and a passing grade in a state proctored exam. Once certified continuing education is required and an inspector must attend several mandatory classes annually to maintain their professional certifications.

Many perceive building codes as bureaucratic red tape that adds cost to the building and hindrances to contractors. For thousands of years, building codes and regulations have protected the public. The earliest known code of law—the Code of Hammurabi, king of the Babylonian Empire, written in 2200 B.C.—assessed severe penalties, including death, if a building was not constructed safely. The regulation of building construction in the United States dates back to the 1700s. By the early-1900s special interest groups, such as the insurance industry, joined others with similar concerns to develop a model code. Building codes have evolved thru the centuries by trial and error and astute engineering practices. Today all building codes are directed towards safe construction practices, the protection of life and the preservation of structures. The person who will be assuring you that your project is constructed to these standards is a highly trained experienced professional, *your building inspector*. With the issuance of a permit you have centuries of expert experience representing your interest.

Pre Construction Review

Permits protect by carefully reviewing all pertinent information before the permit is issued. This process is known as plan exam or plan review. After a permit application is made and the required information is submitted, an inspector digs deep into years of experience and training and reviews all aspects of the request. The review process will check for safety issues and as necessary notes are made on the permit or plans. Occasionally questions arise and the inspector may call the applicant to resolve the question. In some cases the issues are too complex and a meeting is requested. You can be assured that when the permit is issued all pre construction safety concerns have been addressed and resolved by the inspector.

Contractor Credibility

Permits protect by ensuring that only licensed contractors are issued permits for one and two family buildings. To be licensed, a contractor must demonstrate, to the state, that they are qualified and financially stable. Only state licensed contractors and those who carry a trade license, such as plumbing, electrical or heating contractors, are allowed to legally contract work on buildings. Local building departments confirm that contractors are properly licensed before the permit is issued.

Inspections

Mostly permits protect by through onsite scrutiny of all aspects of the construction project. The number of on site inspection and time spent on a job site can vary greatly depending on the type and size of the project and the number of problems incurred. On any type of project, inspections are made at specific stages of the work. These inspections are timed so the inspector can check structural, material and mechanical installations before they are concealed, thus assuring that the structure is safely constructed.