

What is a Building Permit?

A building permit gives you legal permission to start construction of a building project in accordance with approved plans and drawings.

When do you need a permit?

The best way to find out if you need a permit is to call your local building code department. Even if you don't need one for your project, your code official can answer questions and offer advice.

Permits are usually required for:

- New buildings
- Additions (bedrooms, bathrooms, family rooms)
- Small projects (decks, garages, fences)
- Renovations (basements, kitchens, roofing)
- Electrical and plumbing systems
- HVAC systems

Your permit is your insurance policy

Your building permit is like an insurance policy that protects your investment and can keep you out of trouble down the road.



For safety tips & classes visit
www.VBCOA.org



Better Buildings. Safer Communities.

When we do our **job**...



nothing happens.

Building Codes & What They Mean for You



Better Buildings. Safer Communities.

Who Needs Building Codes?

We all do. In our homes, offices, schools or even shopping at the grocery store, we all expect the buildings around us to be safe. The building codes make sure of that.

How do the codes affect me?

- They ensure the safety of you, your family and any guests you have in your home.
- They protect your community from potential hazards caused by fire and disease.
- They promote energy conservation.
- They protect the value of your home and the safety of those who might buy it in the future.

How reliable are they?

Although no code can eliminate all risks, the do drastically reduce the chance of something bad happening. As members of VBCOA, we work together across the state to ensure that the codes are enforced consistently no matter where you are.

What if I want to start a project myself?

We're building safety professionals who are trained and certified. So you can come to us and ask us questions before you go to the home improvement store. In the end, by coming to us first, we can save you time, money, and avoid problems.



Building Permit Process

Talk to your local building code official

We want your project to pass smoothly and quickly. Before you apply for a permit, come talk to us first. Initially, we'll ask you some basic questions like what are you planning to do and where, advise you of any requirements, and, if necessary, refer you to other departments for their approval.

Submit a permit application

You will submit the who, what, when, where and why of your project, and any sketches or plans to your local building code official.

Review process

The code official will review your plans and determine if your project is in compliance with local code requirements. If it does, you will be issued a permit. If not, the code official may suggest solutions to help correct the problem.

Receive your permit

Now you have legal permission to begin your project. A fee will be collected based on the size of the project to cover the application cost, review and inspection process. A code official will be available to you during all stages of your project to help with any questions.

Job-site visits

On-site inspections will be required to make sure the project meets the permit, local codes and plans.

Final approval

Upon completion, the code official will provide documentation that your project complies to code. Now you can enjoy your new space and feel at ease knowing that have met the safety standards of your community.

Who Are We?

The Virginia Building and Code Officials Association (VBCOA) is a statewide organization of building safety professionals dedicated to the protection of the health, safety and welfare of all persons who live, work or visit the Commonwealth of Virginia.

You want you and your family to be safe. So do we. That's why it's our job to make sure your home, your child's school, your office, or even your local grocery store, is a building that is healthy and safe.

So come talk to us before you start that next project, we have the knowledge and expertise to help you do it. Let's work together to build better buildings and safer communities.

Better Buildings. Safer Communities.