

Common Questions for Building Inspections

Q) Does the City require a building permit for siding and roofing?

A) The City requires a permit for siding. The fee is \$10.00 per \$1,000 of estimated cost. Roofing permits are not required unless all old sheathing is removed, exposing bare rafters. While the city does not issue roofing permits, all state building code, (UDC sec 321.28) regulations must be followed.

Q) How close from to lot line can a fence be erected?

A) Fences can go right up to the lot line. The finished side of the fence has to face the neighbor. Permits are required for fences. The fee is \$30. The City will not tell you where your lot line is located. The home owner could locate survey irons or hire a surveyor if they want to know the location of the lot line.

Q) Can I build a detached garage on my property?

A) Generally a garage can be built on most lots in the City. Since many variables are involved (i.e. lot size, green space, zoning district) see our accessory building handout for rules and regulations.

Q) Do I need a permit to finish my basement?

A) Yes, a building and electrical permit will be required. If any plumbing or heating work is being done, those permits will be required as well. Draw a plan showing room sizes (label rooms as to their use) and total finished square footage. The permit fee for the building permit is \$10.00 per \$1,000 of estimate cost. Plumbing, heating and electrical permits are \$30.00.

Q) Do I need a building permit for a play set?

A) No permit is required for a typical playhouse or swing set. For anything out of the ordinary, call the Inspections Division to confirm.

Q) Can I sleep in my basement?

A) No space in a basement may be used for sleeping unless the basement has two legal exists and adequate light and ventilation. See out basement finish handout.

Q) Do I need a permit to remodel my kitchen?

A) If you are not moving walls, a building permit is not required. Contact the plumbing and electrical inspectors to see if they are require permits.

Q) I received a letter stating I have an open permit. What do I do?

A) Contact the inspections division for information and to set up an appointment. Usually, these letters indicate that an open permit has expired. There is no requirement that the work done be inspected and permit closed. However, unapproved permits often become an issue prior to the property selling in the future.

Q) How many people can live in a house or apartment?

A) Section 4-420 of the Municipal Code for the City of Appleton requires that every dwelling unit contain 150 sq. ft. for the first occupant and 100 sq. ft. for each additional occupant. Rooms used for sleeping shall contain 60 sq. ft. for the first occupant and 40 sq. ft. for each additional occupant.

Q) Do I need a permit for a swimming pool?

A) Any pool deeper than 24 inches requires a permit and is required to be guarded with a four (4) foot high fence. Pool permits are \$10.00 per \$1,000 of estimated cost.