



TOWN OF SEWALL'S POINT BUILDING DEPARTMENT
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BUILDING DEPARTMENT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

THE 1998 FLORIDA LEGISLATURE AMENDED CHAPTER 553, FLORIDA STATUTES, "BUILDING CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS", TO CREATE A SINGLE STATE BUILDING CODE THAT IS ENFORCED BY ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. IN 2002, THE FLORIDA BUILDING CODE BECAME LAW, UNIFYING THE STATES BUILDING CODES, AND ESTABLISHING SPECIFIC GUIDELINES THAT REGULATE MOST CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES IN THE STATE. THE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS OF THE CODE.

1. WHY DO I NEED A BUILDING PERMIT?

ANSWER: THE FLORIDA BUILDING CODE HAS SPECIFIC GUIDELINES PRESCRIBING WHEN A BUILDING PERMIT IS REQUIRED.

105.1 Required.

Any owner or authorized agent who intends to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish, or change the occupancy of a building or structure, or to erect, install, enlarge, alter, repair, remove, convert or replace any electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system, the installation of which is regulated by this code, or to cause any such work to be done, shall first make application to the building official and obtain the required permit.

2. WHAT WORK DOES NOT REQUIRE A BUILDING PERMIT?

ANSWER: VERY FEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS ARE EXEMPT FROM PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS. WHEN IN DOUBT, CALL THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT FOR GUIDANCE.

105.2 Work exempt from permit.

Exemptions from permit requirements of this code shall not be deemed to grant authorization for any work to be done in any manner in violation of the provisions of this code. Permits shall not be required for the following:

Gas:

1. Portable heating appliance.
2. Replacement of any minor part that does not alter approval of equipment or make such equipment unsafe.

Mechanical:

1. Portable heating appliance.
2. Portable ventilation equipment.
3. Portable cooling unit.
4. Steam, hot or chilled water piping within any heating or cooling equipment regulated by this code.
5. Replacement of any part which does not alter its approval or make it unsafe.
6. Portable evaporative cooler.
7. Self-contained refrigeration system containing 10 pounds (4.54 kg) or less of refrigerant and actuated by motors of 1 horsepower (746 W) or less.
8. The installation, replacement, removal or metering of any load management control device.

Plumbing:

1. The stopping of leaks in drains, water, soil, waste or vent pipe provided, however, that if any concealed trap, drain pipe, water, soil, waste or vent pipe becomes defective and it becomes necessary to remove and replace the same with new material, such work shall be considered as new work and a permit shall be obtained and inspection made as provided in this code.
2. The clearing of stoppages or the repairing of leaks in pipes, valves or fixtures, and the removal and reinstallation of water closets, provided such repairs do not involve or require the replacement or rearrangement of valves, pipes or fixtures.

105.2.1 Emergency repairs.

Where equipment replacements and repairs must be performed in an emergency situation, **the permit application shall be submitted within the next working business day to the building official.**

105.2.2 Minor repairs.

Ordinary minor repairs may be made **with the approval of the building official without a permit**, provided the repairs do not include the cutting away of any wall, partition or portion thereof, the removal or cutting of any structural beam or load-bearing support, or the removal or change of any required means of egress, or rearrangement of parts of a structure affecting the egress requirements; additionally, ordinary minor repairs shall not include addition to, alteration of, replacement or relocation of any standpipe, water supply, sewer, drainage, drain leader, gas, soil, waste, vent or

similar piping, electric wiring systems or mechanical equipment or other work affecting public health or general safety, and such repairs shall not violate any of the provisions of the technical codes.

3. WHAT DRAWINGS MUST BE SUBMITTED FOR A BUILDING PERMIT?

ANSWER: IN MOST CASES SCALED DRAWINGS OF SUFFICIENT CLARITY THAT INDICATE THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT MUST SUBMITTED FOR PERMITTING

106.1 Submittal documents.

Construction documents, special inspection and structural observation programs, and other data shall be submitted in one or more sets with each application for a permit. **The construction documents shall be prepared by a design professional where required by the statutes.** Where special conditions exist, the building official is authorized to require additional construction documents to be prepared by a design professional. Exception: The building official is authorized to waive the submission of construction documents and other data not required to be prepared by a registered design professional if it is found that the nature of the work applied for is such that review of construction documents is not necessary to obtain compliance with this code.

If the design professional is an architect or engineer legally registered under the laws of this state regulating the practice of architecture as provided for in Chapter 481, Florida Statutes, Part I, or engineering as provided for in Chapter 471, Florida Statutes, then he or she shall affix his or her official seal to said drawings, specifications and accompanying data, as required by Florida Statute. If the design professional is a landscape architect registered under the laws of this state regulating the practice of landscape architecture as provided for in Chapter 481, Florida Statutes, Part II, then he or she shall affix his or her seal to said drawings, specifications and accompanying data as defined in Section 481.303(6)(a)(b)(c)(d), FS.

106.1.1 Information on construction documents.

Construction documents shall be dimensioned and drawn upon suitable material. Electronic media documents are permitted to be submitted when approved by the building official. Construction documents shall be of sufficient clarity to indicate the location, nature and extent of the work proposed and show in detail that it will conform to the provisions of this code and relevant laws, ordinances, rules and regulations, as determined by the building official (see also Section 106.3.5).

4. OK, I HAVE MY PERMIT NOW, BUT WHAT INSPECTIONS DO I NEED?

ANSWER: SMALL PROJECTS MAY ONLY NEED ONE INSPECTION, BUT LARGER PROJECTS WILL NEED SUCCESSIVE IN PROGRESS INSPECTIONS. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CONTRACTOR OR OWNER/BUILDER TO DETERMINE WHAT INSPECTIONS ARE NEEDED FOR CODE COMPLIANCE. THE CODE DOES OFFER SOME GUIDELINES:

109.3 Required inspections.

The building official **upon notification from the permit holder or his or her agent** shall make the following inspections, and shall either release that portion of the construction or shall notify the permit holder or his or her agent of any violations which must be corrected in order to comply with the technical codes. The building official shall determine the timing and sequencing of when inspections occur and what elements are inspected at each inspection.

Building

1. Foundation inspection. To be made after trenches are excavated and forms erected and shall at a minimum include the following building components:

- Stem-wall
- Monolithic slab-on-grade
- Piling/pile caps
- Footers/grade beams

2. Framing inspection. To be made after the roof, all framing, fireblocking and bracing is in place, all concealing wiring, all pipes, chimneys, ducts and vents are complete and shall at a minimum include the following building components:

- Window/door framing
- Vertical cells/columns
- Lintel/tie beams
- Framing/trusses/bracing/connectors
- Draft stopping/fire blocking
- Curtain wall framing
- Energy insulation
- Accessibility.

3. Sheathing inspection. To be made either as part of a dry-in inspection or done separately at the request of the contractor after all roof and wall sheathing and fasteners are complete and shall at a minimum include the following

building components:

- Roof sheathing
- Wall sheathing
- Sheathing fasteners
- Roof/wall dry-in.

4. Roofing inspection. Shall at a minimum include the following building components:

- Dry-in
- Insulation
- Roof coverings
- Flashing

5. Final inspection. To be made after the building is completed and ready for occupancy.

6. Swimming pool inspection. First inspection to be made after excavation and installation of reinforcing steel, bonding and main drain and prior to placing of concrete.

Final inspection to be made when the swimming pool is complete and all required enclosure requirements are in place. In order to pass final inspection and receive a certificate of completion, a residential swimming pool must meet the requirements relating to pool safety features as described in Section 424.2.17.

7. Demolition inspections. First inspection to be made after all utility connections have been disconnected and secured in such manner that no unsafe or unsanitary conditions shall exist during or after demolition operations. Final inspection to be made after all demolition work is completed.

8. Manufactured building inspections. The building department shall inspect construction of foundations; connecting buildings to foundations; installation of parts identified on plans as site installed items, joining the modules, including utility crossovers; utility connections from the building to utility lines on site; and any other work done on site which requires compliance with the Florida Building Code. Additional inspections may be required for public educational facilities (see Section 423.27.20).

Electrical

1. Underground inspection. To be made after trenches or ditches are excavated, conduit or cable installed, and before any backfill is put in place.

2. Rough-in inspection. To be made after the roof, framing, fireblocking and bracing is in place and prior to the installation of wall or ceiling membranes.

3. Final inspection. To be made after the building is complete, all required electrical fixtures are in place and properly connected or protected, and the structure is ready for occupancy.

Plumbing

1. Underground inspection. To be made after trenches or ditches are excavated, piping installed, and before any backfill is put in place.

2. Rough-in inspection. To be made after the roof, framing, fireblocking and bracing is in place and all soil, waste and vent piping is complete, and prior to this installation of wall or ceiling membranes.

3. Final inspection. To be made after the building is complete, all plumbing fixtures are in place and properly connected, and the structure is ready for occupancy.

Note: See Section P312 of the Florida Building Code, Plumbing for required tests.

Mechanical

1. Underground inspection. To be made after trenches or ditches are excavated, underground duct and fuel piping installed, and before any backfill is put in place.

2. Rough-in inspection. To be made after the roof, framing, fire blocking and bracing are in place and all ducting, and other concealed components are complete, and prior to the installation of wall or ceiling membranes.

3. Final inspection. To be made after the building is complete, the mechanical system is in place and properly connected, and the structure is ready for occupancy.

Gas

1. Rough piping inspection. To be made after all new piping authorized by the permit has been installed, and before any such piping has been covered or concealed or any fixtures or gas appliances have been connected.

2. Final piping inspection. To be made after all piping authorized by the permit has been installed and after all portions which are to be concealed by plastering or otherwise have been so concealed, and before any fixtures or gas appliances have been connected. This inspection shall include a pressure test.

3. Final inspection. To be made on all new gas work authorized by the permit and such portions of existing systems as may be affected by new work or any changes, to ensure compliance with all the requirements of this code and to assure that the installation and construction of the gas system is in accordance with reviewed plans.