



Community & Economic Development Department
2010 S. Lincoln Rd.
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
Phone: (989) 772-4600 x 227/242
www.uniontownshipmi.com

Check first!

Many home improvement projects require a building permit.

Plan on doing some home improvement projects? Before tearing down walls or running electrical wire, check with your local or state building department to learn if your project requires a building permit. A building permit provides the legal permission to start construction of a building project in accordance with approved drawings and specifications.

A building permit is usually required for:

- New buildings
- Additions (bedrooms, bathrooms, family rooms, etc.)
- Residential work (decks, garages, fireplaces, pools, water heater, etc.)
- Renovations (garage conversions, basement furnishings, kitchen expansions, re-roofing, siding, windows, flatwork etc.)
- Electrical & Plumbing systems
- HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning) systems
- Pools and Spas

Many television programs geared toward home improvement and renovations have inspired homeowners to tackle their own projects. While the initiative is rewarding, it can also be costly if codes are not followed, and inspections not conducted. **Check first with the Township's code official to avoid having to pay penalties, demolish and re-do work, or make costly repairs to bring the work in to compliance.**

A building permit ensures that the proposed construction meets minimum safety standard and allows code officials to protect the public by reducing potential hazards of unsafe construction. Property insurers may not cover work done without permits and inspections. In addition, the value of the property could be reduced, and problems may arise when the property is sold.

By answering some basic Who, What, When, Where and How questions about your project, a code official will be able to provide the information needed for compliance with the Michigan Building and Residential Codes and an application for a building permit. Please document the "Who, What, When, Where and How" of the project on a permit application, along with providing sketches or plans of the proposed work. Separate permits are required for electrical, plumbing, and heating or air-conditioning work. A code official will review the application for compliance with local and state requirements.

A permit fee is collected to cover the cost of the application review and inspection process. If the plan meets the requirements, the building permit will be issued, and work can begin. On-site inspections will be required to make certain the work conforms to the permit, codes, and plans. More than one inspection is typically required on a project. Finally, after a final inspection, the code official will provide documentation when construction is complete and code compliance is determined. An approved building permit is valid for 180 calendar days.

When in doubt if a building permit is required please contact the Union Township Building Services office at 989-772-4600 ext. 242 or buildingofficial@uniontownshipmi.com