

# HOMEOWNER AND CONTRACTOR GUIDELINES FOR RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS



Community Development  
Department  
427 Patton St, Room 208  
P.O. Box 3300  
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CITY OF DANVILLE

## Inspections Division Responsibilities

The Inspections Division is responsible for the issuing of permits and the enforcement of the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code. The office has inspectors for each of the technical trades to assist contractors and building owners in their related fields. We require that all permitted work be inspected before the permit can be closed.

## Mission Statement

To provide prompt assistance to the public, contractors and homeowners to ensure that the minimum standards required for the construction and maintenance of buildings and structures are being observed in order to help protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Danville.

## **Why Do I Need A Building Permit?**

Building permits are mainly about safety. By enforcing construction standards, they give you and the other occupants of the building the best chance to avoid fire, structural failure or something as simple as a child getting his head caught between stair posts. If you decide to move, the permit process also protects future owners.

If you fail to get a permit for work that requires it, you can be fined. You may be forced to remove a building or tear out completed work. But there are plenty of positive reasons for following the permit process as well:

- ◆ It keeps your contractor honest.
- ◆ It guides your do-it-yourself project.
- ◆ It keeps your insurance valid.
- ◆ It's valuable when you sell your home.



## When do I need a Permit?

Permits are required for most of the improvements made to building and structures. Separate plumbing, electrical & mechanical permits are required if such work is to be performed. The purpose of obtaining a permit is to allow the enforcement of the codes which have been adopted as law by the state. The enforcement of these codes is carried out to protect the public health, safety and welfare. As a homeowner or business owner you have an investment in the property that will be built or remodeled and it must comply with the codes, if not your investment could be reduced. Therefore, a permit is used to notify the Code Official that you are constructing or remodeling a building so he or she can ensure code compliance.

## How can I get a Permit?

Call the Inspections Office, Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM –5:00 PM at (434) 799-5260 and see if a permit is required. If required, you can come in person to our office, Room 208 of the Municipal Building, or you can complete an electronic permit application on our website at [www.danville-va.gov](http://www.danville-va.gov). Some jobs may require a zoning clearance (i.e. decks or additions) before a permit can be issued.

## How much do the Permits cost?

- **BUILDING PERMITS:** Fees are based upon the total cost of the improvements to be made, with a minimum fee of **\$30.60.** the fee for demolishing a structure is \$51.00 and the fee for moving a structure (including a mobile home) is \$76.50.
- **ELECTRICAL PERMITS:** Fees are based upon the number and type of outlets to be installed and/or the number and size of main or subpanels, with a minimum fee of \$30.60.
- **PLUMBING PERMITS:** Fees are based upon the number of fixtures or devices to be installed, with a minimum fee of \$30.60.
- **MECHANICAL PERMITS:** Fees are based upon the cost of the work to be performed, with a minimum fee of \$30.60.

*\*This fee includes a 2.00% state levy.*



## INSPECTIONS STAFF

- **Director** Jerry D. Rigney
- **Supervisor** Charles Fulcher
- **Building** David Cockran  
William Willis
- **Electrical** John Thompson
- **Plumbing/Cross Connections** Mike LaPrade
- **Maintenance Code** Carlos Valderrama  
Dennis Bisson
- **Rental Housing** Seth Hawker
- **Permit Technician** Beth Harrington

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