



City of Anaheim  
**PLANNING DEPARTMENT**  
Building Division

**WHEN IS A PERMIT REQUIRED?**

**The 2001 California Building Code States in “Section 106-Permits”:**

“No building or structure regulated by this code shall be erected, constructed, enlarged, altered, repaired, moved, improved, removed, converted or demolished unless a separate permit for each building or structure has first been obtained from the building official.”

The City of Anaheim enforces the above code provisions by requiring construction activity to be covered by a valid permit. Some examples of construction activity that require a permit include:

- Construction of new Buildings
- Construction of Tenant Improvements
- Additions and remodels
- Installation of signs
- Upgrading electric service panels
- Adding or moving outlets, lights, switches or other electrical equipment
- Adding or moving registers, ducts or mechanical equipment
- Adding or moving plumbing lines or plumbing fixtures
- Demolition
- Patio Covers, Enclosures and Decks
- Pools and Spas
- Retaining walls supporting a surcharge
- Blockwalls over 36” high
- Accessory structures
- Re-roofs
- Re-pipes
- Water heater and water softener change-outs
- Window and door change-outs (only if existing framing modified)
- Drywall replacement
- Repairs of damaged areas
- Stucco and siding

There are six **types of permits** available from the Building Division for construction projects. They are:

- **Building Permit:** A building permit covers construction of the building only.
- **Mechanical Permit:** A mechanical permit covers construction of the mechanical systems of a building.
- **Electrical Permit:** An electrical permit covers construction of the electrical systems of a building.
- **Plumbing Permit:** A plumbing permit covers construction of the gas lines, plumbing lines and plumbing fixtures of a building.
- **Swimming Pool/Spa Permit:** A swimming pool/spa permit covers the construction, alteration and repair of a swimming pool/spa.
- **Sign Permit:** A sign permit covers the installation of a sign. The sign may be a monument, pole or wall sign.

This list gives examples of some of the type of work that require permits. There are other work types that require permits that are not on this list.



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**PERMIT EXEMPTIONS**

A building permit is not required for the following:

1. One-story detached accessory buildings used as tool or storage sheds, playhouses and similar uses, provided that the area does not exceed 120 square feet.
2. Wood fences not over 6 feet in height and masonry fences not over 36 inches in height.
3. Platforms, walks and driveways not more than 30 inches above grade and not over any basement or story below.
4. Canopies or awnings attached to a single family dwelling or garage extending not more than 54 inches from the exterior wall of the building.
5. Retaining walls not more than 4 feet in height measured from the bottom of the footing to the top of the wall, unless supporting a surcharge.
6. Prefabricated swimming pools, which do not require filtering or heating equipment, accessory to a Group R, Division 3 Occupancy in which the pool walls are entirely above the adjacent grade and if the capacity does not exceed 5,000 gallons.  
*(Note: Pool fencing is required to comply with the Building Code.)*
7. Painting, papering and similar finish work.
8. Storage cabinets within garages associated with single family occupancies, when not required to be part of a fire rated separation.
9. Closet organizers.
10. Flagpoles not erected on any building and not more than 15 feet in height.
11. Moveable cases, counters and partitions not over 5 feet 9 inches high.
12. Water tanks supported directly upon grade if the capacity does not exceed 5,000 gallons.
13. The replacement of panes of glass within existing frames or supports unless required to be tempered glass as stipulated by Chapter 24 of this code.

**If you are unsure if your project requires a permit, please call the Building Division at (714) 765-5153 to assist you in making a determination.** Applications for each of the above noted permits can be downloaded to your printer from our web page at [www.anaheim.net/building](http://www.anaheim.net/building).