

## Planning to do electrical work on your home

### Some important reminders:

- You must be both the owner and the occupant of the home to obtain a permit to do the electrical work yourself.
- If you do not own or do not intend to live in the unit, a licensed electrical contractor must do the work.
- A landlord or agent of the landlord may replace an existing garbage disposal, dishwasher, or electric water heater with a similar appliance of 30 amps.

## About Permits Protect

Permits Protect is a collaborative effort between state and local government and the construction industry. The program is designed to raise awareness about the role and importance of building permits, and conducting properly permitted home improvements.

Permits Protect also serves as a valuable resource for homeowners, contractors, and building department officials by serving as a central location for a wide range of helpful permit and building related information.

### For more information:

If you have any questions concerning your eligibility to work on a building, call the Building Codes Division, 503-378-4133 or 800-442-7457, or visit [www.PermitsProtect.info](http://www.PermitsProtect.info) to locate your local building department.

### State of Oregon offices

Building Codes Division.....	800-442-7457
or .....	503-378-4133
Chief Electrical Inspector.....	503-378-4459
Construction Contractors Board .....	503-378-4621
Better Business Bureau.....	503-226-3981

### Attorney General's Consumer Hotline:

Portland .....	503-229-5576
Salem .....	503-378-4320
Toll-free.....	877-877-9392

# Do I need an electrical permit?



**PermitsProtect.info**

**Safe Homes. Secure Investments. Smart Communities.**



### Building Codes Division

1535 Edgewater St. NW  
P.O. Box 14470  
Salem, OR 97309-0404



# Common Questions and Key Information Regarding Electrical Permits

## Building Permits: Bring Value to Your Home Improvement Projects

Building codes are designed to ensure safe building techniques. These important standards help protect your family from safety risks, such as structural failures, fire hazards caused by electrical and heating systems, and electrical shock. They also help eliminate costly repairs for shoddy work and save money in the long run.

Permits are required for all new construction as well as for specific alterations to existing homes, including structural, plumbing, mechanical, and electrical changes. The true value of the permit lies in the accompanying expert inspection of your project.

Permit inspections help protect your family by ensuring the project is done safely and correctly. It can save you money by catching errors, making sure the project is done right the first time. These inspections can also ease the frustration that many homeowners experience during a home improvement by eliminating mistakes and preventing extensive repairs.

## When do I need an electrical permit?

*An electrical permit is required when you:*

- Install or alter any permanent wiring or electrical device.
- Run additional wiring in your home.
- Install a new electrical outlet or light fixture.
- Install a receptacle for a garage-door opener.
- Convert from fuse box to circuit breakers.
- Install or alter low-voltage systems, such as security alarms, stereos, or computer systems.

## An electrical permit is not required when you:

- Replace broken or damaged electrical outlets, light fixtures, and light switches with a like replacement.
- Replace approved fuses and defective breakers.
- Replace light bulbs and fluorescent tubes.
- Replace an existing garbage disposal and dishwasher, or similar appliance of 30 amps or less.
- Install coaxial cable for cable television (CATV); however, it must be listed as the proper type of insulated wire for the project.
- Replace an existing door bell.
- If you are still not sure if you need a permit, check out [PermitsProtect.info](#); it is a great resource for additional information.

## Where do I get a permit for electrical work?

Permits are issued by your local building department. Visit [PermitsProtect.info](#) to locate the proper jurisdiction based on your address.

## How do I get a permit for electrical work?

1. Locate your local building department.
2. Complete the permit application – Jurisdictions offer permit applications at their office and many also provide them online or via fax.
3. Pay the permit fee – Permit fees are based on the size and complexity of your project and are paid when the permit is issued.
4. Receive your permit – A permit will be issued in the name of the person performing the work and once the permit has been issued, the work can begin.

## When do I need an inspection?

*Most electrical permits require three inspections:*

### 1. Rough-in inspection, done when:

- All of the new circuits are wired, grounding wires are in, the raceways and boxes are installed, and any necessary coverings are put on.
- Do not cover any work with insulation, receptacles, or wall switches until the inspector has approved it.

### 2. Service inspection, done when:

- The service electrical mast, the electric meter base, the service panels, and the grounding electrodes and terminals have been installed.
- Wires must be visible without removing cover devices.

### 3. Final inspection, done when:

- The electrical work is complete.
- Be sure that panel boxes are covered and circuits are labeled in the correct spaces on the box.
- All of the equipment, fixtures, switches, and appliances must be installed, grounded, and energized.

## How do I get an inspection?

*Follow these steps:*

- Call the request line at the building department responsible for your area at least 24 hours in advance.
- When you call to make the appointment, have all the details (permit number, project address, etc.) available.
- If the work was done inside, an adult needs to be at the site for the inspection.