

## **BENEFITS OF BUILDING PERMITS**

By reading this you've already taken the first step toward protecting the outcome and investment value of your construction project and guarding against a lawsuit or injury. The following describes simple steps you can take to obtain a building permit and how permits can work for you. You'll be surprised at how easy the whole process is.

The truth is, building permits are very beneficial to you and your community. By working with an expert code official, you will benefit from their knowledge of the building codes to ensure your construction project is built right, will be safe and will last.

### **WHAT IS A BUILDING PERMIT?**

A building permit gives you legal permission to start construction of a building project in accordance with approved drawings and specifications.

### **WHEN DO YOU NEED A PERMIT?**

Permits are usually required for the following:

- New buildings
- Accessory structures
- Additions (bedrooms, bathrooms, family rooms, etc.)
- Residential work (covered decks, decks over 30" above grade, garages, fireplaces, pools over 24" deep, water heaters, air conditioners, etc.)
- Renovations (garage conversions, basement finish, kitchen expansion, etc.)
- Electrical systems
- Plumbing systems
- HVAC systems (heating, air-conditioning, ventilating)
- Modifications in framing (remove interior wall, add door or window, etc.)
- Signs
- Fences

### **WHY DO YOU NEED A BUILDING PERMIT?**

Your home or business is an investment. If your construction project does not comply with the codes adopted by your community, the value of your investment could be reduced. Property insurers may not cover work done without permits and inspections. If you decide to sell a home or building that has had modifications without a permit, you may be required to tear down the addition, leave it unoccupied or do costly repairs.

A property owner who can show that code requirements were strictly and consistently met – as demonstrated by a code official's carefully maintained records – has a strong ally if something happens to trigger a potentially destructive lawsuit.

Your permit also allows the code official to protect the public by reducing the potential hazards of unsafe construction and ensuring public health, safety and welfare. By following code guidelines, your completed project will meet minimum standards of safety and will be less likely to cause injury to you, your family, your friends or future owners.