

Building Code Enforcement Frequently Asked Questions

When do I need a permit?

Under the terms of the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code, a permit is necessary for all work that involves structural changes. For example, new additions for decks, second story rooms, move a wall, windows and doors that involve structural changes and other improvements of that nature. Permits are not required for replacement windows that do not involve changing opening size. Permits are not necessary for the replacement of gutters, downspouts, shingles, kitchen cabinets and other repairs that are not of a structural nature. Feel free to call our code enforcement officer in order to verify the permit requirements for the project you are planning: 412.262.3970

Why do I need a permit?

Permits allow the enforcement of codes which have been adopted as law by the Borough of Ambridge. No matter what the project may be, the enforcement of codes is carried out to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. By enforcing building codes the Borough is acting to assure safe construction practices.

What do I need in order to apply for a permit?

For most projects, three (3) sets of construction drawings with cross-sections and floor plans are required. If the project is commercial in nature, the plans and drawings must be sealed and signed by a registered design professional. Site/survey plans of the property showing where the buildings/additions are proposed relative to property lines as well as a completed application are required. For fences, pools, sheds, etc., the site/survey plan is necessary to show proper setbacks from the property lines.

How long will it take once the application is submitted?

The turn-around time varies, but the regulations allow up to 15 business days for a residential application and 30 business days for a commercial application, pass or fail.

When do I need inspections?

At the time the permit is issued, a sheet showing what inspections are required is given to the permit recipient. Please make sure the contractor receives these instructions. It makes the process a lot easier for all parties involved. Feel free to call our code enforcement officer in order to verify the inspection requirements for the project you are planning: 412.262.3970

Visit the Printable Borough Forms Section for more information.

How much are the fees for building permits.

Borough of Ambridge Fee Resolution Link