

Why is a building permit required? The purpose of a building permit is to provide the building inspector the opportunity to inspect a project for compliance with the State building, electrical, plumbing and HVAC codes. This is for the homeowner's protection and safety. Before you allow any contractor to begin work, a permit must be obtained and posted on the front of the residence in plain view of the street. All contractors must be licensed with the State of Wisconsin and provide a copy of liability insurance. Contractors include Electricians, Plumbers, HVAC and Framers. (per Municipal Code 15.04.090 A). If you have a specific project question please contact the Inspection Department at 715-426-3426 or 715-426-3427.

Building Permits Required for:

- New home construction
- New windows or door installations
- Building additions
- Building alterations/remodeling (finish basement)
- Razing a structure (removing)
- Demolition (gut or remove a portion of structure)
- New driveway & parking area (expansion or replacement)
- Repair fire or water damage
- Sheds 150 sq ft or larger in size
- New and replacement deck, stoop, stairs
- Fireplaces, gas or wood inserts
- Plumbing work (except faucet replacement)
- Electrical work (except light fixture or receptacle replacement)
- New furnace, air conditioning, or duct work



How to obtain a Building Permit: Call The City of River Falls Inspections Department at 715-426-3426 or 715-426-3427 to make an appointment to obtain a building permit prior to beginning your project. A building permit application, building plans and specs, and permit fee must be submitted. Applications are available at City Hall and online at rfcity.org.

Final Inspection: A final inspection must be completed (requested by homeowner or contractor) upon completion of the project and prior to occupying the space. It is recommended the final inspection be completed prior to the homeowner paying the contractor in full to ensure the work performed conforms to the State Codes.

Rental Property: Per Section 15.16.110 of the Municipal Housing Code, a Housing Permit/License is required if an owner wishes to operate a dwelling unit that produces rental income. Contact the Inspections Department to obtain application and license.