



Work Exempt From Permit Bulletin # 8

Department of Planning and Land Services, June 2007
Division of Building Safety and Inspection for 2006 I Codes

There are many things that are exempt from permit. This bulletin covers items in the International Building Code, International Residential Code, International Mechanical Code, and the Uniform Plumbing Code as adopted by Pierce County. This bulletin only applies to property located in unincorporated areas of Pierce County.

If you are within the city limits of any city, you must contact that city. To check your location you can go on-line to www.SouthSoundPermits.org. This website also links to most cities within Pierce County.

All of the codes have the following requirement or limitation:

"Exemptions from permit requirements of this code shall not be deemed to grant authorization for any work to be done in any manner in violation of the provisions of this code or any other laws or ordinances of this jurisdiction."

International Mechanical Code,

106.2 Permits not required. Permits shall not be required for the following:

1. Portable heating appliances;
2. Portable ventilation appliances and equipment;
3. Portable cooling units;
4. Steam, hot water or chilled water piping within any heating or cooling equipment or appliances regulated by this code;
5. The replacement of any minor part that does not alter the approval of equipment or an appliance or make such equipment or appliance unsafe;
6. Portable evaporative coolers; and
7. Self- contained refrigeration systems that contain 10 pounds (4.5 kg) or less of refrigerant, or that are actuated by motors of 1 horse power (0.75 kW) or less.
8. Portable fuel cell appliances that are not connected to a fixed piping system and are not interconnected to a power grid.

Uniform Plumbing Code

103.1.2 Exempt Work. The following work shall be exempt from the requirement for a permit:

103.1.2.1. The stopping of leaks in drains, water, soil, waste or vent pipe provided, however, that if any trap, drain pipe, soil, waste or vent pipe become defective and it becomes necessary to remove and replace the same with new material, the same shall be considered as new work and a permit shall be procured and inspection made as provided in this code.

103.1.2.2. (1) The clearing of stoppages including the removal and reinstallation of water closets or

(2) The repairing of leaks in pipes, valves, or fixtures, provided such repairs do not involve or require the replacement or rearrangement valves, pipes, or fixtures.

International Building Code, (Commercial and Multifamily uses)

Section, 105.2 Work exempt from permit as amended by Pierce County Code (PCC) 17C.20.060. Permits shall not be required for the following: Building:

1. Single - story detached accessory structures used as tool and storage sheds, playhouses and similar uses, provided the floor area does not exceed 120 square feet (11.15 m²).

If you need more than one accessory structure you must get a permit for them.

2. Fences not over 6 feet (1829 mm) high.

3. Oil derricks.

4. Retaining walls which are not over 4 feet (1219 mm) in height measured from the bottom of the footing to the top of the wall, unless supporting a surcharge or impounding Class I, II or III- A liquids.

5. Water tanks supported directly on grade if the capacity does not exceed 5,000 gallons (18 925 L) and the ratio of height to diameter or width does not exceed 2 to 1.

6. Sidewalks and driveways not more than 30 inches (762 mm) above adjacent grade and not over any basement or story below and which are not part of an accessible route.

7. Painting, papering, tiling, carpeting, cabinets, counter tops and similar finish work.

8. Temporary motion picture, television and theater stage sets and scenery.

9. Prefabricated swimming pools accessory to a Group R- 3 occupancy, as applicable in Section 101.2, which are less than 24 inches (610 mm) deep, do not exceed 5,000 gallons (18 925 L) and are installed entirely above ground.
10. Shade cloth structures constructed for nursery or agricultural purposes and not including service systems.
11. Swings and other playground equipment not associated with an amusement park.
12. Window awnings supported by an exterior wall which do not project more than 54 inches (1372 mm) from the exterior wall and do not require additional support of Group R- 3, as applicable in Section 101.2, and Group U occupancies.
13. Movable cases, racks, counters and partitions not over 5 feet 9 inches (1753 mm) in height.

International Residential Code (Single family, duplex, townhouse)

R105.2 Work exempt from permit as amended by Pierce County Code (PCC)
17C.90.040. Permits shall not be required for the following. Building:

1. One-Single story accessory structure used as un heated tool and storage sheds, playhouses and similar uses, provided the floor area does not exceed 200 square feet (18.58 m²) and it is at least three feet from a property line.
line.

If you need more than one accessory structure you must get a permit for them.

2. Fences not over 6 feet (182 9mm) high.
3. Retaining walls that are not over 4 feet (121 9mm) in height measured from the bottom of the footing to the top of the wall, unless supporting a surcharge.
4. Water tanks supported directly upon grade if the capacity does not exceed 5,000 gallons (1892 7L) and the ratio of height to diameter or width does not exceed 2 to 1.
5. Decks, sidewalks and driveways not more than 30inches (76 2mm) above adjacent grade and not over any basement or story below.
6. Painting, papering, tiling, carpeting, cabinets, counter tops and similar finish work.
7. Prefabricated swimming pools that are less than 24 inches (61 0mm) deep.
8. Swings and other playground equipment not associated with an amusement park.
9. Window awnings supported by an exterior wall which do not project more than 54 inches (137 2mm) from the exterior wall and do not require additional support.

10. The re-roofing of Group R, Division 3 One and Two-Family Dwellings and Group U, Division 1, private garages having a roof slope greater than 2" in 12", when the total load of all roof coverings does not exceed 7.5 pounds per square foot.

This exemption does not apply to the replacement of roof sheathing.

11. The re-siding of Group R, Division 3 One and Two-Family Dwellings and Group U, Division 1, private garages.

This exemption does not apply to the replacement of wall sheathing nor to the replacement of the weather resistant exterior described in IBC Section 1403.2.

12. The installation or relocation of framed-covered structures or tent structures as defined in Appendix 31 Division II, are exempt from permit provided that:

- a. Structure used only for protection or propagation of plants.
- b. The structure is located so that it is 60' to property lines and other types of buildings. (OK to group greenhouses as long as the group has 60' to property lines and other buildings.)
- c. Coverings shall be plastic less than 20 mills in thickness.

13. Minor construction and alteration activities to Group R, Division 3 and Group U, Division 1, as classified by the building official, PROVIDED:

- a. That the construction and/or alteration activity does not affect any structural components, or reduce existing egress, light, air, energy and ventilation conditions.
- b. That the construction and/or alteration activity does not exceed 500 square feet for Group R, Division 3 and 1,000 square feet for Group U, Division 1, in any 12 month period.
- c. This exemption does not include electrical, plumbing or mechanical activities.
- d. The permit exemption shall not otherwise exempt the construction or alteration from complying with the substantive standards of the codes enumerated in RCW 19.276.031, as amended and maintained by the State Building Code Council under RCW 19.27.074.
- e. Unless otherwise exempted, separate plumbing, mechanical, and electrical permits will be required for the above exempted work.

See Bulletin 10 for additional information on item 13 above.

Electrical Work. Contact Labor and Industries at 253-596-3800, or if served by Tacoma Power call 253-502-8277