



## Building Ties

Building Safety Division

Last month we introduced the Building Safety Division and provided information describing construction activities needing building permits. You are probably wondering what needs to be submitted when applying for a permit. Sometimes the permit application process can be daunting when you look at all the requirements. We are here to help minimize the stress.

Every permit will need the following information.

- Address for the work being done
- Owner's name
- Description of the work being done
- Contractor's information (if you use a contractor)

Some permits can be issued “over the counter” meaning very quick with the information submitted above. Others will need additional information and time to review that information.

Let's look at some of the most common small permits that you as a homeowner may encounter.

- **Water heater:** If the water heater being installed is the same size as the old water heater no additional information needed. If you are installing a larger water heater or a tankless water heater, a gas line drawing will be needed to ensure each of the gas appliances in the home will be provided with enough gas to work properly.
- **Furnace and/or Air Conditioner replacement:** These are generally installed by a contractor and they will/should apply for the permit. It is always good to check that a permit has been issued before work has begun.
- **Electrical changes:** When adding new lights or electrical outlets to existing areas, a permit is needed. If the electrical work is more extensive, submitting a plan showing the electrical work being added will be needed.
- **Plumbing changes:** If you add a sink, reconfigure the layout of your kitchen or bathroom that changes the location of the sink, toilet, tub, shower, etc. A floor plan showing the location of the existing fixtures and the location of the new or relocated fixtures will be needed.
- **Sheds/garages larger than 200 square feet, accessory apartments:** These will need more detailed plans and additional documents. Maybe in later newsletters we can discuss these permits in greater detail.

Sometimes the permit process seems slow and you are concerned that it will create additional costs. In some cases that may be true. When looking at cost savings be sure that the savings won't create unsafe conditions in your home. Code requirements are developed because problems have been discovered when products are improperly installed. With contractor's expertise, the permit process and inspections you can rest assured that the structure is safe and will provide years of comfort and safety.

If you have additional questions please don't hesitate to visit our website, call or email. (<https://orem.org/buildingsafety/>, phone# 801-229-7060, email [pkashton@orem.org](mailto:pkashton@orem.org))