



## Do I Need a Building or Trade Permit?

Not sure when you need a permit from the City of Detroit to do work on your building rehab project? Use this graphic as a starting place for deciding when you'll need to get a permit, whether you're doing the work yourself or hiring a contractor to do it.

If you are not sure if you need to apply for a permit after you review below feel free to contact City of Detroit Building, Safety Engineering and Environmental Department (BSEED) at (313) 224-2372, or by email at [DRC@detroitmi.gov](mailto:DRC@detroitmi.gov).

If your property is located within a local historic district, a permit is required for all exterior work. Contact City of Detroit Historic District Commission staff for more information at HDC Staff at (313) 224-1762 or by email at [hdc@detroitmi.gov](mailto:hdc@detroitmi.gov) for more information..

PERMIT NEEDED?	YES	NO	YES	NO
	DIY	DIY	CONTRACTOR	CONTRACTOR
<b>MECHANICAL</b> 	For any heating, cooling, gas piping, air distribution or exhaust system – new or alteration	A permit is not required for portable heating, cooling, or ventilation units, minor parts that do not make the appliance unsafe	For any heating, cooling, gas piping, air distribution or exhaust system – new or alteration	A permit is not required for portable heating, cooling, or ventilation units, minor parts that do not make the appliance unsafe
<b>ELECTRICAL</b> 	A permit is required for alterations to electrical systems that involve more than replacing switches or receptacles	A permit is not required for replacing switches or receptacles or minor repairs including replacement of lamps or the connection of approved portable electrical equipment*	A permit is required for alterations to electrical systems that involve more than replacing switches or receptacles	A permit is not required for replacing switches or receptacles or minor repairs including replacement of lamps or the connection of approved portable electrical equipment*
<b>BOILERS</b> 	A permit is required for alterations to, or installation of, boilers	A permit is not required for repairs or replacement of minor parts so long as they do not make the boiler unsafe	A permit is required for alterations to, or installation of, boilers	A permit is not required for repairs or replacement of minor parts so long as they do not make the boiler unsafe
<b>PLUMBING</b> 	A permit is required for alterations to plumbing systems that involve more than the working parts of a faucet or valve, or clearance of stoppages	A permit is not required for repairs which involve only the working parts of a faucet or valve, or clearance of stoppages	A permit is required for alterations to plumbing systems, including piping	A permit is not required for repairs which involve only the working parts of a faucet or valve, or clearance of stoppages
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b> 	Any project meant to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish or change the occupancy of a building or structure  <u>Construction/alterations</u> including the cutting away of any wall, partition or portion thereof  Roof replacement/ removal of a substantial amount of shingles (with exemptions listed)  Driveway approach and sidewalk flags associated with the driveway within public rights-of-way	Exemptions to Building permit requirement:  Fences that are 7' high or less and not in a Special Review District  Accessory detached structures <b>no more than 1 story and 200 square feet</b> (i.e. garages, sheds)  Retaining wall no more than 4 feet tall  Replacing a few shingles (any roof-work that could be done in a matter of minutes)  Decks not exceeding 200 square feet	Any project meant to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish or change the occupancy of a building or structure (with exemptions listed)  <u>Construction/alterations</u> including the cutting away of any wall, partition or portion thereof  Roof replacement/ removal of a substantial amount of shingles  Driveway approach and sidewalk flags associated with the driveway within public rights-of-way	Exemptions to Building permit requirement:  Fences that are 7' high or less and not in a Special Review District  Detached structures <b>no more than 1 story and 200 square feet</b> for residential construction, 120 square feet for commercial construction  Retaining wall no more than 4 feet tall  Replacing a few shingles (any roof-work that could be done in a matter of minutes)