



Do I Need An Electrical Permit?

Protect Your Home. Protect Your Family.



The purpose of every permit is to protect what you value most – your family and home. Faulty installations can cause house fires, flood damage and structural instability. But permits and inspections help protect your loved ones from these potentially deadly mistakes. Permits also help you avoid costly repairs down the line and preserve your biggest financial investment - your home. When selling your home, you are now required by the lending institution to fully disclose all remodeling work and whether or not permits were obtained. With permits and inspections, you can expect a smoother closing process, free of last-minute hassles, inspections and repair work if the home isn't up to code. **So insist on permits.**

When do I need an electrical permit?

A permit **is required** when you intend to:

- Install or alter any permanent wiring or electrical device.
- Run additional wiring, put in an electrical outlet or light fixture, install a receptacle for a garage-door opener or convert from fuse box to circuit breakers.
- Install or alter low-voltage systems such as security alarms or stereo or computer systems.
- Frequently overlooked projects include ceiling fans, water heaters, and dishwashers.

How do I get a permit for electrical work?

You start by making application through the Building & Planning Department Permit Center. Your application is reviewed by the Building Code Officials for completeness and safety based on National Code Standards and those established by the State of Pennsylvania. Once the review process is done, you'll be notified by a staff member that your permit is ready. You will need to pay the permit fee when your permit is issued. Depending on the scope of your project you may be required to call for periodic inspections by our Electrical Inspector, or may simply need a final inspection to ensure the work was completed with your safety in mind. Our Inspectors are trained and certified for just this reason.

How do I get an inspection?

The home owner or the licensed electrical contractor performing the work can call 215-633-3644 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. to schedule inspections. Inspections are scheduled in a 48 hour window.

When do I need an inspection?

Most electrical permits require three inspections: rough-in, service, and final.

Call for a **rough-in inspection** when all of the new

circuits are wired, grounding wires are in, the raceways and boxes are installed and any necessary nail plates are put on. Do not cover any work with insulation, receptacles or wall switches until the inspector has approved it.

Call for a **service inspection** when the service electrical mast, the electric meter base, the service panels, and the grounding electrodes and terminals have been installed. Wires must be visible without removing cover devices. Sometimes, the inspector is able to inspect these items during the rough-in inspection.

Call for a **final inspection** upon completion of the electrical work. Be sure that panel boxes are covered and circuits are labeled in the correct spaces on the box. All of the equipment, fixtures, switches, and appliances must be installed, grounded and energized for the final inspection.

What's Next?

Ready to make application for an electric permit? [Click here](#). You can complete and submit the application online through PermitCenter@bensalem-township.org. Be sure to check out the general information for requirements and attach the necessary documents along with the applications. We can accept plans up to 11" x 17". Once your paperwork has been submitted, it will begin processing through review, approval and ultimately the issued permits. If you submit an incomplete application or are missing any required documents, the Township's Permit Clerk will notify you and your application will be held until everything is in house.

When buying a product or contracting a service:

- **Call the Better Business Bureau.**
- **Talk to other consumers.**
- **Compare prices.**
- **Ask for references and contact them.**
- **Be sure you have a written contract and read it carefully before signing.**