



# Do I Need A Plumbing Permit?

## **Protect Your Home. Protect Your Family.**



**T**he purpose of every permit is to protect what you value most – your family and your 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 may be required 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 a permit for plumbing work?

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

- replace water heaters, alter piping inside a wall or ceiling, or beneath a floor, and for plumbing in all new installations.
- perform emergency repair, alteration or replacement of freeze-damaged or leaking concealed piping, if new piping exceeds three feet.
- remodel or add on to your one- or two-family dwelling when existing plumbing is to be relocated. This includes installation of building sewers, water service and exterior rain drains.

### *Safety First*

For your safety, your family's safety, and to avoid costly mistakes, ***Please Do Not Do Plumbing Work That Is Beyond Your Skill Level.***  
When in doubt, hire a licensed professional.

### What plumbing work can I do without a permit?

A plumbing permit is generally not required to do the following:

- Perform "ordinary minor repairs" to your home or duplex's plumbing system – this means repair, replacement or maintenance of existing accessible fixtures, parts and appliances, and their related water and drain attachments. Do not alter an existing plumbing system without a permit.

### 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.**

### Where do I get a permit for plumbing work?

Permits are issued at the Building & Planning Department Permit Center. If a plumbing contractor is doing the work, they can apply for the permit and ensure that required inspections are done. Fees are based on the size and complexity of the job. You will need to pay the permit fee when your permit is issued.

### How do I get an inspection?

If you are having the work done by a plumbing contractor, the contractor is required to notify the Building & Planning Department when the work is ready to be inspected. If you are doing your own work, you can call to schedule an inspection. If you have installed water piping, the work must be operational for inspection. Inspectors may require that drainage piping be plugged and filled with water for inspection. When you call, you will be asked for the permit number, homeowner's name, project address, type of inspection needed, and the date on which inspection is desired.

### What's Next?

Ready to make application for a plumbing permit? [Click here](#). You can complete and submit the application online through [PermitCenter@bensalem-township.org](mailto: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.

This is provided as general information. Please call the Building & Planning Dept at 215-633-3644 for specific information on permits and inspections or if you are unsure if you need a permit.