

How to Obtain a Building, Electrical, Plumbing Permit for the Remodeling of Single and Two-Family Dwellings in the City and County of San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO



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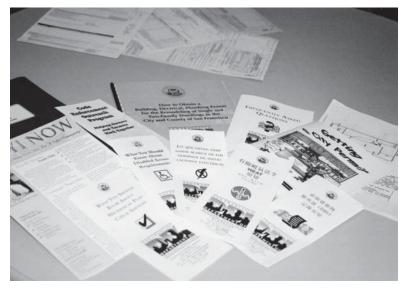
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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this booklet is to provide assistance to you, the homeowner, in obtaining a permit to remodel, alter, or add to your home.

City of San Francisco laws require that one or more permits be obtained from the Department of Building Inspection (DBI) before starting work covered by the San Francisco Building, Housing, Electrical, Mechanical and/or Plumbing Codes. Obtaining a permit will help to protect you, the homeowner, from dangerous construction that may result in the loss of life or injury due to improper use of

materials or construction procedures. It will help to assure your property is designed to prevent damage that may result from insufficient structural design intended to resist earthquakes and earth movement, illness caused by poor sanitation and ventilation, and provide security and safety within your home for you and your family.

There is an appendix containing phone numbers at the back of this booklet. This will aid you in contacting Department staff with questions you may have. The Department of Building Inspection is located at **1660 Mission Street, with office hours between 8:00am - 5:00pm, Monday through Friday, except holidays**. Please note that some of the divisions in the Department have public hours only in the morning and/or the afternoon, with the bulk of the day hours being reserved for inspection and plan review work.

The information contained in this booklet is general in nature and should not be used as a substitute for specific code requirements. Where possible, a reference to the code section has been made so that you may refer to the specific requirements. Copies of the Building, Housing, Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing Codes are available at the Public Library, or may be purchased at various bookstores including: Stacey's Bookstore, 581 Market Street, San Francisco, (415) 421-4687; General Code Publishers Corporation, 72 Hinchey Road, Rochester, NY 14624, (1-800-836-8834); the International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO), 5360 South Workman Mill Road, Whittier, CA 90601, (1-800-284-4406); and are also available for reference use at DBI's Technical Services Division, 558-6084. San Francisco has codes unique to our community and may have specific requirements beyond the State Code. If you do your own code research, review the California Building Codes with San Francisco Amendments.

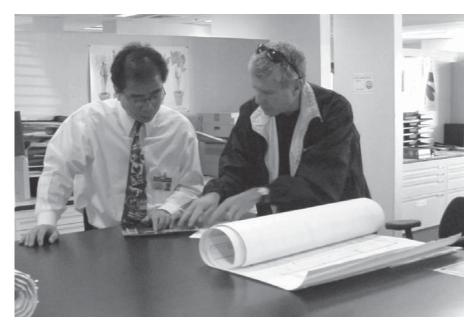
The State of California has passed laws that mandate when a licensed engineer or architect must prepare and sign plans for certain types of work. The design professional you hire can assure your plan meets code requirements while enhancing the enjoyment of your property.

Many permits also require review by the Planning Department. The Planning Department is a separate City department with its own Planning Code and Commission.The Planning



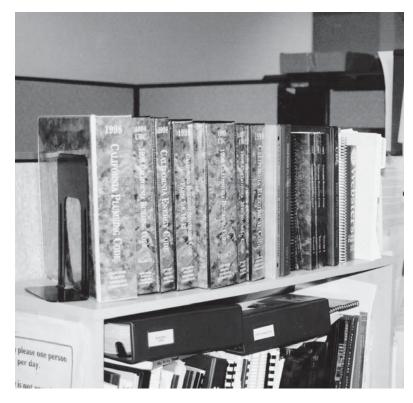
Department reviews and approves building permits just as DBI does. The Planning Department

reviews the height, size and occupancy type of your project as well as neighborhood concerns. The information in this booklet covers only the Department of Building Inspection requirements, which are generally set for minimum safety and the security of the occupant. For Planning information you can stop by their general information desk located on the 1st floor of 1660 Mission Street or call (415) 558-6377.



The information in this

booklet is limited **to the remodeling of one or two family residences, or a one family residence together with a small business occupancy**. The procedure for submittal of an application is similar for multi-family dwellings such as an apartment building and for changing a single family building to another type of use such as a small retail shop. The latter has requirements that are generally more restrictive. The homeowner should consult a design professional.



This booklet covers four types of permits that are required: Building, Electrical, Mechanical and Plumbing. A separate permit is required for each type of work being done. The requirements for each type of work are covered in separate codes. Construction work is covered in the San Francisco Building Code, which is made up of the 2001 California Building Code with San Francisco amendments. Electrical work is covered by the 2001 California Electrical Code with San Francisco amendments. Plumbing work is covered by the 2001 California Plumbing Code with San Francisco amendments. Mechanical work is covered by 2001 Mechanical Code with San Francisco amendments.

Remember that in some cases, all four permits are necessary to begin or continue work. Adding a bathroom or building an addition are examples where building, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing permits are necessary.

I. THE BUILDING PERMIT PROCESS

- The homeowner, the design professional, or the contractor must apply in person for a building permit. By calling (415) 558-6088, permit application forms may be mailed to the applicant. Customers seeking information in person before applying for a permit may come to the First Floor at 1660 Mission Street, Customer Information Desk.
- Building permits are reviewed by the Department of Building Inspection and other City departments as necessary. The law requires the applicant to provide plan requirements that meet



the code. Plan review staff might catch a "**problem**" but it is the applicant's responsibility to resolve the issue. Some people may hire a design professional to provide a complete code complying set of plans. The permit, depending on the type and nature of the work, may be issued over the counter or accepted for staff review. Review time may vary depending on the complexity of the project and the number of agencies the project has to

go through. Upon completion of the review and the approval by the Central Permit Bureau, a post card is sent to the applicant advising him/her that the permit is ready for pick-up. The payment of any applicable fees must be made prior to permit issuance.

- Although any permit can be appealed to the Board of Appeals within 15 days of issuance, with your valid permit you may choose to start work immediately (except for demolition permits).
- It is required by code to start the work within 90 days of the permit issuance. It is the applicant's responsibility to notify the district Inspector when ready to start the work.



Permits to complete work due to code enforcement violations must begin within 30 days of issuance. Starting work means the District Inspector has been to the job site and signed the job card.

- Permits expire in 4 months to 4 years depending upon the cost of the project. Extensions are permitted and require a fee.
- Upon completion of the inspection process, the homeowner is advised to keep all documents in a safe place. DBI will microfilm records of all projects.
 For a fee, copies of permits and plans are available through DBI's Microfilm Section, 558-6080, two months after the job is finaled.





II. BUILDING PERMITS

A. WHAT IS THE PERMIT PROCESS?

The permit issuance process can be as simple as submitting the completed application forms, having them reviewed by the Counter Building Inspector and having the permit issued after paying the fees. The length of process depends on the nature and complexity of the project.

A building permit issued while you wait is called an "Over-the-Counter Permit." Typical types of work that can be done in an over-the-counter permit manner are:

- Existing bathroom remodel
- Kitchen remodeling (only one kitchen is permitted per legal dwelling unit)
- Repair of existing stucco or siding
- Most types of termite repair work
- Exterior stair repair
- Roof sheathing repair/reroofing
- Replacement of existing windows

For more complicated applications requiring plans, it may take longer for a permit to be issued due to required plan review from various agencies. These agencies include:

- Department of Building Inspection (DBI), Plan Check Services: Commercial, Major Projects/UMB, Mechanical, and Residential Divisions.
- Department of Public Health (DPH)
- Department of Public Works (DPW)
- Fire Department (FIRE)
- Planning Department (DCP)

Each of the above agencies must review your application if the

work proposed is affected by the codes those agencies enforce. The Counter Building Inspector will determine which agencies must review your application.

B. WHEN IS A BUILDING PERMIT REQUIRED? (Code Reference Section 106 of Building Code)

Almost all types of home alteration or remodeling require that you obtain a permit from the Department of Building Inspection. Since the type of work requiring permits is so broad, it is easier to list those items that do not require permits.

The following items DO NOT require a permit:

- One-story detached accessory buildings or structures used as tool and storage sheds, playhouses and similar uses, provided the projected roof area does not exceed 100 square feet.
- 2. Wood, metal or plastic fences not over 6 feet in height located at the rear and side lot lines of the property, and all fences not over 3 feet in height along the front of the lot.
- 3. Amusement devices not on fixed foundations.
- 4. Movable cases, movable counters and movable partitions not over 5 feet 9 inches high.
- 5. Retaining walls which are not over 4 feet 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.
- 6. Water tanks supported directly upon grade if the capacity does not exceed 5000 gallons and the ratio of height to diameter or width does not exceed two to one.
- 7. Platforms, walks and driveways, when not a part of an exit, and not more than 30 inches above grade or over any basement or story below. Where more than 200 sq ft of ground is paved or covered, a plumbing drain permit is required.
- 8. Painting, papering and similar finish work.
- 9. Temporary motion picture, television and theater stage sets and scenery.
- Minor repairs to existing interior plaster, except when part of a fireresistive assembly such as any wall along the property line.
- II. Prefabricated swimming pools accessory to a Group R, Division 3 Occupancy in which the pool walls are entirely above the adjacent grade if the capacity does not exceed 5000 gallons.
- 12. Reroofing without the installation, repair or removal of roof sheathing, if the surface area of the roof being worked on does not exceed 25 percent of the entire surface area.

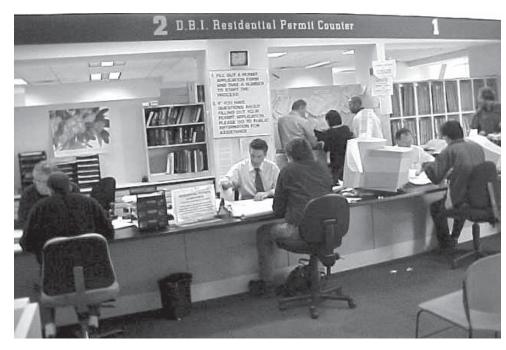


- 13. Surface mounting of readily removable materials on interior walls.
- 14. Installations or replacement of floor coverings in areas other than bathrooms and toilet rooms not requiring the removal of existing required flooring.
- 15. Repair and replacement of glazing in conformity with the code, and provided wire glass shall be replaced in kind.
- 16. Replacement of doors, except garage doors, in all occupancies, provided they are not required to be fire-resistive assemblies by the code.
- 17. A system of six or less automatic fire sprinkler heads. Plumbing permits shall be required when not more than six heads are involved and both a plumbing and building permit shall be required when more than six heads are involved.

If your project **is not** in the above list of exceptions, you must obtain the proper permit(s) before starting work. Failure to obtain a permit can result in penalty fees and the additional expense and time delays of having to remove and/or correct work not meeting the code.

C. HOW DO I APPLY FOR A BUILDING PERMIT?

When you need a building permit, the first step is to fill out a permit application available at 1660 Mission Street. Office hours are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, except holidays. The Counter Building Inspector can help you in filling out the permit application. For remodeling work needing a permit, the application form "Application For Building Permit Additions, Alterations or Repairs", Building Form 3/8, would



be used. A sample copy of this form is in the appendix for your review. For a new structure not attached to any other building, the application form "Application For Building Permit" Form 1/2 would be used. For demolition permits, a Form 6 is used. Demolition permits are used only when the entire building is removed.

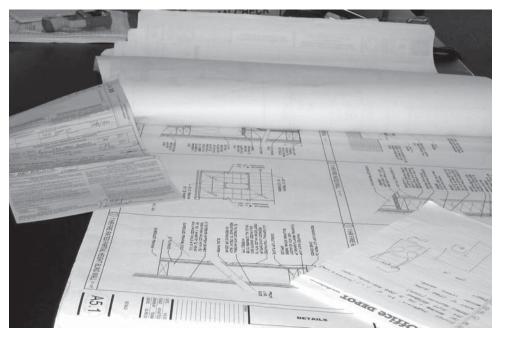
Filing an application does not allow you to start work. You can legally start work on your project when a permit is issued to you.

D. WHEN ARE BUILDING PLANS REQUIRED?

Home maintenance projects such as replacing windows, remodeling of kitchen or bathrooms, and roofing permits can be described on the application and could be issued without plans and over-thecounter. Two sets of plans must be included with your application submittal, when required. Examples of work needing plans include:

- Removal or adding of a wall or part of a wall or creating new roof openings for a skylight.
- Converting a garage or storage area to a recreation room, play room, or bedroom.
- Any addition to the building or property such as adding a deck in the rear yard. Constructing a new
 addition or adding a new story. Also, building a new deck or enlarging an existing one.
- Changing the number of dwelling units by adding or removing a unit.

Two sets of plans are required to accompany the application. Plans shall be drawn to scale (1/8" = 1 ft. or 1/4" = 1 ft. minimum) and on **minimum size** of $11" \times 17"$ white paper. Plans shall be of such quality that they could be microfilmed. The plans must show the location, nature and extent



of the work proposed and show in details that they will conform to the provisions of the code and all other laws and regulations. Remember that the owner, agent, or designer is responsible for submitting code complying plans.

Plans must be wetstamped and wet signed by a professional engineer or architect as required by the California Architects and Engineers Practice Act. Plans must include

any or all of the following information that would help show the work being proposed: (See Sec. 106.3.3 of the San Francisco Building Code for complete details). A complete plan illustrates the following items:

- 1. Plot plan showing the building location and relationship to the street, sidewalk, property lines and other items on or near the property. Show the distance(s) between the house walls and the front, back, and side lot lines.
- 2. Exterior elevations illustrating the existing condition, the addition or the change being made.

- 3. Floor plans of each floor being remodeled or added to. Show both the existing and proposed work on the floor(s) being improved. Name each room, showing dimensions and windows.
- Type and size of all building materials to be used. Show how they are connected or attached.
- 5. Structural drawings and calculations when required.
- 6. Parking plans.
- Conditioned areas would require California Code of Regulations (C.C.R), Title 24 Part 6 Energy Calculation.



8. Information and forms that have been glued, pasted or taped onto plans are not acceptable, nor is "white-out" allowed on permit drawings.

E. DO I NEED AN ENGINEER OR ARCHITECT?

The California Architect and Engineer Practice Act mandates that certian work be prepared and



designed by an Architect or Engineer. Even if it is not required by law you may choose an Architect or Engineer for the project. Owners, contractors, and/or designers may prepare and sign plans for remodeling work on, or the new construction of, a single family dwelling of wood frame construction not more than 2 stories in height with spans between bearing walls not exceeding 25 ft.

However, special structural components such as engineered foundation or shear walls, retaining

walls over 4 ft. high, underpinning, rigid frames, structural steel or reinforced concrete or wood trusses, glulaminated beams, columns and arches shall be designed and signed by a licensed architect, civil engineer or structural engineer.

If an addition includes new conditioned space(s), it is necessary to have an engineer, architect or energy consultant prepare the required energy calculations and State of California forms. The energy forms are available at DBI - just ask the information desk for assistance.

F. MAY I DO THE WORK MYSELF?

Work on an owner-occupied home may be done by the owner. You may also hire another person or a contractor to do the work on your own home. The contractor must be licensed and maintain the proper insurance and business license. State law requires worker's compensation insurance be provided for all workers, so be sure you or the contractor have this. No permit may be issued unless worker's compensation is indicated upon the application. Consult the Contractors State License Board for more information if you wish to do work as an owner/builder.

G. WHEN MUST AN EXISTING BUILDING BE RE-DESIGNED FOR AN EARTHQUAKE?

San Francisco is located in an area where earthquakes occur often and with such force as to cause

damage to buildings. Therefore, when a building is remodeled, the remodeling may have to include strengthening for earthquakes. San Francisco Building Code Sections 3403 and 3405 cover the conditions under which an existing building must be upgraded. Examples of remodeling work that may require earthquake design are:

- 1. When 2 out of 3 stories are remodeled substantially.
- 2. Structural alteration.
- 3. Adding a story.
- 4. Horizontal addition.
- 5. Changing use of the building or a floor level.

You may receive an estimate of the fees when you file your application or you may contact DBI's Central Permit Bureau at 558-6070 for a general idea of possible fees.

The Counter Building Inspector or the Engineer at the counter can help you to determine if earthquake resistant design is needed for your project.



H. WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE ENERGY REGULATIONS?

The State of California and the City and County of San Francisco regulate designs of residential

additions and new buildings to prohibit excessive energy use. New buildings and additions to existing buildings are required to comply with the energy regulations.

Major alterations may require compliance with the energy requirements depending on the work being done and its dollar value. Minor alterations of existing heated space are not subject to those regulations. A booklet outlining the energy requirements is available from DBI's Housing Inspection Services (HIS) 558-6220, or call the California Energy Commission at 1-800-772-3300. Sale of your home requires compliance with the San



Francisco Residential Energy Conservation Ordinance (RECO), as will projects that fall under RECO due to job value.

I. WHAT FEES WILL BE REQUIRED?

Fees consist of the following: an application filing fee (payable when you file the application); the plan check fee, if plans are needed (payable when you file the application); permit fees (payable when you are issued the permit); and other fees collected by DBI's Central Permit Bureau for other City agencies such as the Planning Department (payable when you are issued the permit). School Fees are required to be paid to the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) before permit issuance. The fees charged by the Department of Building Inspection are based on the estimated cost of the proposed work. The estimated cost used by the Department is determined from data from a national appraisal organization and may not reflect the actual cost of your project. However, the cost estimate will be uniform for all applications submitted to the Department.



J. WHAT HAPPENS IF I HAVE PROBLEMS WITH THE PERMIT PROCESS?

Department of Building Inspection plan review staff write up and mail a comment sheet to the designer/owner when the plan cannot be approved. You will be notified by the reviewing agency telling you the code issues and you will be given a certain amount of time to comply. The first thing to do is to discuss the code issues with the agency that is holding your application. You may contact DBI's Public Services Division at 558-6088 to determine the agency presently reviewing your project.

If you believe your application or plans are unduly delayed, or you believe that you are caught between different requirements, you should contact the plan review staff's supervisor.

Further assistance can be obtained through the Division Managers, Deputy Directors, or the Director's Office.

K. HOW IS THE PERMIT ISSUED?

After your permit application has been reviewed and approved by all necessary agencies, Central Permit Bureau will notify you by mail when the building permit is ready to be picked up. The permit can be picked up at DBI's Central Permit Bureau, 1st Floor, 1660 Mission Street, between the hours of 8:00 am - 4:45 pm. You must pay the permit fees and any other fees that are due before the permit can be issued. Any permit is appealable to the Board of Appeals if the appeal is made within 15 days of permit issuance.

L. APPROVED PRODUCTS AND MATERIALS?

Products used in home remodeling projects must be listed by a nationally recognized independent agency. Some of the listing agencies are Underwriters Laboratories (UL), American Gas Association (AGA), and the International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO). Agency listings include fire rated assemblies, prefabricated fireplaces and stoves, furnaces and heaters, insulation, etc.

When you have identified a specific brand and model you want to install, check with your District Inspector to see if it has been approved for use in San Francisco. In most cases the brand and listings must be shown on the plan to be approved.

III. MECHANICAL PERMIT

A. WHEN ARE PERMITS REVIEWED FOR MECHANICAL PLAN CHECK IN RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES?

Mechanical work is covered under building permit applications and to a lesser extent under plumbing and electrical permits. New additions or converting garage/storage areas into conditioned areas need



to comply with California Energy Requirements. The Mechanical Plan Check Division reviews these energy calculations for compliance. Section 112.2 of the San Francisco Mechanical Code lists various types of work for which a building permit is not required. Subject to the exemptions listed in the plumbing and electrical codes, separate permits may be required for plumbing and electrical work, even if a building permit is not. Please contact the Plumbing Inspection Division at 558-6054 and/or the Electrical Inspection Division at 558-6030 for

further guidance. The Energy Compliance Forms you may need to fill out are available at DBI's Public Information Desk on the 1st Floor, 558-6088.

B. THE "OVER-THE-COUNTER PERMIT"

Some permit applications for mechanical work can be approved over-the-counter. These may include:

- Installation of a new furnace in the same location as a furnace to be replaced. Please note that replacement of the thermostat may also be required if the existing thermostat does not meet the mandatory setback requirements of California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 6, Section 150(i). No plans are required.
- 2. Installation of new heating ducts within a single dwelling unit in which the volume of



heated space is not increased. Please note that any ducts routed within unheated space requires a minimum of R4.2 insulation in accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 6, Section 150 (m), Mandatory Features. No plans are required.

- 3. Installation of any listed appliance in strict accordance with manufacturer's instructions. No plans are required.
- 4. Minor alterations of or additions to residential single family dwellings with complete energy calculation and documentation on plans.
- 5. Minor fire-damage repair projects such as replacement of ducts, mechanical units, etc. Minor revisions of previously-approved mechanical permits.

Newly constructed heated buildings are required to meet all applicable energy conservation standards. In addition, these standards apply to any alterations of the energy-related features (lighting, mechanical and building envelope) of existing heated buildings. Conversely, unheated buildings such as warehouses and parking garages are exempt from the energy standards, but conversions of unheated space to heated space must comply, such as a garage/storage into new living area.

The California Energy Commission (CEC) requires all plans submitted with building permit applications that involve energy-related work to include proper documentation (commonly referred to as "energy calculations"). Furthermore, this documentation must be incorporated directly onto (not stapled, taped or sticky back) the submitted plan sheets. As a minimum the following compliance forms are required on the plans:

- Forms must be full size. Do not reduce size.
- Residential (new construction and alterations/additions) "Certificate of Compliance: Residential" Form CF-IR and "Mandatory Measures Checklist: Residential" Form MF-IR.

All these required certificates must be signed on the spaces indicated, and all other information (addresses, license nos., checkmarks, etc.) must be included.

The most commonly asked questions pertain to residential window replacement, residential kitchen hoods, flexible duct and legal locations for various types of exhaust discharges, flues and chimneys.

If you are replacing an existing singlepane window with the same size window opening, then the new window



is not required to be dual-pane. However, dual-pane windows with a U-value no larger than 0.55 are required:

- If windows are added (new or increased size opening); or
- If an alteration apart from the window changes requires a building permit, then any new or replaced windows within the area being altered must have a maximum U-value of 0.55.

All manufactured windows, skylights and glass doors are required by the California Energy Commission to have a sticker that indicates the certified U-value. Please do not remove these stickers until final inspection is completed.

These requirements apply to all windows, glass doors and skylights located in heated portions of the building. Also, please inquire to the Planning Department regarding any additional window related requirements not pertaining to energy conservation.

Residential kitchen hoods are not required by code, but if you install one, please remember to:

- Locate the exhaust discharge no closer than 3 feet from property lines or other building openings.
- Ensure that the system includes a backdraft or automatic damper to prevent leakage of conditioned air.
- Observe all installation instructions furnished with your listed hood.

Flexible ducts are referred to in the California Mechanical Code as "factory-made" air ducts. Please note that flexible ducts are not intended as a substitute for rigid metal ducts. Its use is limited by the manufacturer's instructions, as well as Section 602.3 and 604.2 of the 2001 California Mechanical Code and Sections 601.5 and 603.2 of the 2001 California Energy Code.

The aforementioned "3 feet" rule for residential kitchen hood exhausts outlet locations also applies to domestic clothes dryer exhausts, as well as domestic laundry room exhaust fans, and the exhaust fan discharge from bathrooms in any building (residential or non-residential).

Flues for furnaces, water heaters, boilers and gas fireplaces should terminate at least 4 feet from property lines, and at least 3 feet above any roof opening (such as an operable skylight) located within 10 feet. Please refer to Section 806.0 of the 2001 California Mechanical Code for further guidance. Chimneys for solid-fuel burning fireplaces shall terminate as required in Table 31-B of the 2001 California Building Code, and shall be provided with a spark arrester in accordance with Section 3102.3.8 of the 2001 California Building Code.

IV. ELECTRICAL PERMITS

A. THE ELECTRICAL PERMIT PROCESS

The Electrical Inspections Division provides assurance that electrical installations in San Francisco comply with minimum standards of safety through the inspection process. This process begins with the requirement for obtaining an electrical permit.

B. WHEN IS AN ELECTRICAL PERMIT REQUIRED?

An electrical permit is required before alterations, extensions, or additions may be made to electrical installations, unless exempt under San Francisco Electrical Code Section 089-18.

C. WHAT KIND OF ELECTRICAL WORK DOES NOT REQUIRE AN ELECTRICAL PERMIT?

The following does not require an electrical permit if no change in the building wiring is required:

I. Replacement of domestic appliances and their components parts.



- 2. Replacement of switches, receptacles, and residential lighting fixtures weighing less than 50 pounds.
- 3. Temporary holiday lighting that does not extend across a public thoroughfare.



- 4. Replacement of fuses, or circuit breakers of less than 100 amps rating.
- 5. Removal of abandoned and properly de-energized electrical wiring.

D. HOW DO I APPLY FOR AN ELECTRICAL PERMIT?

California State Licensed Contractors (C7, C10, C11, C16, C46, C61, B1) who have not previously filed permits with the Department of Building Inspection,

are required to register with the Central Permit Bureau by presenting the following documents:

- I. A valid California State Contractor's License
- 2. A current Business Tax receipt from the San Francisco Tax Collector's office.
- A valid certificate of insurance for Worker's Compensation.

The next step is to fill out the Permit application Form. Please note: an electrical permit is separate from the building permit and shall be filed whenever electrical work is to be performed. This means that a separate electrical permit is required in addition to any other permits being filed.

E. MAY I DO THE WORK MYSELF?



The owner of the stand-along single-family dwelling may apply for a Homeowner's Permit by scheduling an interview with the district electrical inspector. The purpose of this interview is to ascertain if the applicant possesses the knowledge necessary to perform the proposed electrical work in a safe and code-complying manner. The applicant is required to complete a Homeowner's Declaration Form and a Permit Application worksheet.

F. ARE ELECTRICAL PLANS REQUIRED?

Electrical plans are required for large installations involving emergency and/or life safety systems. If in doubt, please review with the district electrical inspector.

G. HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO GET AN ELECTRICAL PERMIT?

Electrical permits are issued over-the-counter to contractors who are registered (see Section IV above).

H. WHERE DO I REGISTER AND APPLY FOR AN ELECTRICAL PERMIT?

The San Francisco Permit Center is located on the first floor of 1660 Mission Street. The permit desk is open from 8:00 am until 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.

V. PLUMBING PERMITS

A. THE PLUMBING PERMIT PROCESS

The Plumbing Inspection Division is a Division of the Department of Building Inspection whose job it is to insure that water systems, drainage and waste piping systems, gas piping systems, and vents from gas-fired appliances, water heaters and furnaces, are installed according to the Plumbing and Mechanical Codes of the City of San Francisco.

B. WHEN DO I NEED A PLUMBING PERMIT?

A plumbing permit is not required for:

- 1. Repair of leaks not requiring cutting into or removing piping.
- 2. Unstopping of traps, sewers, vents or waste pipes not requiring cutting into or removal of traps or piping.
- 3. Replacement, repair or maintenance of faucets, valves, hose bibbs or roof drains not requiring cutting into or removal of piping.



- 4. Replacement of toilet seats, water closet tank covers and float mechanisms.
- 5. Replacement of old water closet with a new 1.6 gallon flush water closet.
- 6. Replacement of furnace filters.
- 7. Removal of drainage, water or gas piping from a building when the water supply, gas and drainage lines have been disconnected in an approved manner under a permit.
- 8. Work involved in setting up for a display of plumbing fixtures or appliances, when not connected to any supply or drainage lines in a sales establishment.
- 9. Installation of plumbing systems installed by a utility company in the operation of their utility business.
- Replacement of water conservation devices not requiring cutting into or removal or piping.
- Work performed in buildings or structures owned and occupied by the State and Federal governments.

Any cutting into or replacement of pipe, particularly pipe that is to be covered in walls or buried in the ground, requires a permit and inspection.



C. MAY I DO THE WORK MYSELF?

Plumbing work must be done by a California Licensed Contractor. However, there may be times when the homeowner may do plumbing work to their home. When the application is filed for a single family dwelling, the Plumbing Inspector at the counter will test your knowledge of plumbing systems. If approved, you may do the work.

D. HOW DO I APPLY FOR A PLUMBING PERMIT?

When you need a plumbing permit, the first step is to fill out a permit application at 1660 Mission Street, First Floor. The form entitled "**Application/PERMIT TO INSTALL PLUMBING**, **GAS, WATER, AND MECHANICAL**", is to be filled out. A sample copy of the form is in the appendix. The plumbing permit is treated as a separate permit and therefore must be filled whenever



plumbing work is to be done. A plumbing permit is needed in addition to any other permit required. The Plumbing Inspector at the counter can help you in deciding which permits are needed for your project.

E. WHEN DO I CALL FOR INSPECTIONS?

If you are issued a permit it is your responsibility to make an appointment with the District Plumbing Inspector to approve what you have done before you cover any of the work, and again when all the work is completed. On larger jobs multiple inspections could be necessary and on smaller jobs fewer may be required.

F. HOW MUCH DO PERMITS COST?

The Plumbing Inspection Division gives you the opportunity to control your permit fees. We charge one fee for each portion of the permit you need. Those portions are Drainage Piping (Plumbing Permit Fee), Water Permit Fee, Gas Piping Fee, Mechanical Permit Fee (Flues & Gas Vents) and Sewer Repair Fee. The permit fee is required for each type of piping you are going to do.

In addition to those fees, we charge an inspection fee for each visit we make. If the work complies with the code on the first visit, no further visits are necessary. If the work does not comply with the minimum standards as set forth in the appropriate code, we will require additional inspection and inspection fees.

G. WHY DO I NEED A PERMIT?

A permit is required for a number of reasons. The first and most important is to insure that you, and subsequent owners of your property, are getting a building that meets minimum standards. Another reason is to protect you from non-complying work. For contractors, it tells their customers they have done a job that complies with minimum standards. And finally, it documents who did what work, when, and affirms that it meets minimum standards.

VI. WHAT TO DO AFTER YOUR PERMIT IS ISSUED

As important as it is to have your permit issued it is equally important to make sure that all of your required inspections are made and that your construction work is approved and finalized.

In order to assure that this process is completed, please review and follow the steps listed below:



I. Your permit is valid for a set period of time only. Generally, work must begin within 90 days or it will be subject to cancellation, and it may expire if work is abandoned for more than 90 days. Requests for extensions of time must be made in writing prior to expiration to the applicable divisions (Building, Plumbing, and Electrical). Your permit can be appealed to the Board of Appeals during a 15-day period after issuance, and work may be stopped. Remember that separate permits are required for building, plumbing and electrical work as applicable. Be sure to call your District Inspector upon the start of work. At this time you

can also discuss your future scheduled inspections. Your contractor may call to arrange any needed inspections.

2. Make sure that you schedule your inspections 24 to 48 hours in advance. When your inspector arrives have your copy of the approved permit, job card and the approved plans (if applicable) on the site. Keep in mind that if your project is not ready for inspection or permit documents are not on site when we arrive, you will be subject to a reinspection fee for an additional inspection. At the time of the inspection, if the workmanship is satisfactory,



and the work corresponds with the approved plans, you will receive approval on the job card to continue.

Remember that signature on the job card by the inspector is required prior to covering any work. If corrections are required your inspector will specify all items needed to be changed on a correction notice. Your inspector will be available to answer questions and discuss further required inspections. Make sure to obtain any required energy conservation inspections and clear all special inspection reports prior to calling for a final inspection.

3. After all your work has been completed you may call for a final inspection. At this time your inspector will sign off your project and issue any required certificates to you.

Remember, we are here to assist you. If you have any questions about your project, please give us a call!



VII - DBI DIVISIONS AND FUNCTIONS

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION

1660 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

(415) 558-6088 Information • (415) 558-6401 Fax • www.sfgov.org/dbi

The Department of Building Inspection is charged with implementing and enforcing local, state, and federal regulations and controls that govern the design, construction, quality, use, occupancy, and location of buildings and structures within the City and County of San Francisco. A seven-member Building Inspection Commission governs the Department.

	Phone	Fax
DIRECTOR - 6TH FLOOR	. 558-6131	558-6225
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER – 6TH FLOOR	. 575-687	558-6225
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PERMIT SERVICES – 2ND FLOOR	. 558-6139	558-6436
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INSPECTION SERVICES – 3RD FLOOR	. 558-6142	558-6435
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER – 6TH FLOOR	. 558-6250	558-6225

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE DIVISION (AFD) - 1650 Mission St., 3RD Floor 558-6323 558-6207

Provides support to the Department in the areas of fiscal management, purchasing, employee services, and related data collection.

Office Hours 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

CENTRAL PERMIT BUREAU (CPB) - IST Floor558-6070558-6170Issues building, plumbing and electrical permits; collects fees for processing applications for DBI and other City agencies.Office Hours 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.• Last customer will be served at 4:30 p.m.

Screens, reviews, and approves commercial tenant improvement applications for compliance with building, and disabled access regulations. Office Hours 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. • OTI Office Hours 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon • Commercial Plan Check Counter Hours 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Responsible for the intake and resolution of all complaints filed by the public regarding disabled access citywide. Office Hours 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Provides public safety by enforcing municipal and State regulations and codes relative to construction, alteration, and installation of electrical equipment and systems. Office Hours 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. • Electrical Inspectors' Office Hours - 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and 3: 15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Inspects buildings for code compliance in residential housing under building permits or as a result of complaints and inspects apartments and hotels.

Office Hours 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. • Housing Inspectors' Office Hours - 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

 MAJOR PROJECTS/UMB'S DIVISION (MPC/UMB) – 2ND Floor
 558-6101
 558-6041

 Reviews and approves new, major and UMB applications and plans for compliance with building, and disabled access
 regulations. Office Hours 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SERVICES (MIS) -

 PERSONNEL PAYROLL DIVISION (PPD) – 6TH Floor
 558-6343
 558-6636

 Provides support to the Department in the areas of personnel, payroll, and other related Human Resources activities.
 Office Hours 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

 PLUMBING INSPECTION DIVISION (PID) – 3RD Floor
 558-6054
 558-6178

 Provides public safety by enforcing municipal and State regulations and codes relative to construction, alteration, and installation of plumbing equipment and systems. Office Hours 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 • Plumbing Inspectors' Office Hours

 - 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

PUBLIC SERVICES DIVISION (PSD) - IST Floor558-6130558-6605Serves as the first point of contact for the public, answers general questions; gives permit status and information.558-6605Management, processing, and updating of all microfilm services and residential records.Office Hours 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

STRUCTURAL SAFETY and EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION (SSEM) -

TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION (TSD) - 1650 Mission Street, 3RD Floor 558-6205 558-6688

Provides technical support for the Department in the areas of code development and information, and earthquake/ emergency program. Office Hours 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Building Inspection Commission (BIC), Ann Aherne, Commission Secretary	558-6509
Abatement Appeals Board (AAB), Dept. Rep	558-6435
Access Appeals Commission (AAC), Neil Friedman, Dept. Rep	558- 6 474
Board of Examiners (BOE), Hanson Tom, Dept. Rep	558-6686
Code Advisory Committee (BCAC), Alan Tokugawa, Dept. Rep	558 -66 88
Unreinforced Masonry Buildings Appeals Board (UMB), Gary Ho, Dept. Rep	558-604I
10/20/2006	

VII. DEFINITION OF TERMS

APARTMENT BUILDING: Any building or portion thereof, that contains three or more dwelling units, including residential condominiums.

SAN FRANCISCO BUILDING CODE: The San Francisco Building code is the California Building Code as amended by the City and County of San Francisco for local conditions.

DWELLING UNIT: Any building or portion thereof which contains living facilities, including provisions for sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation, as required by code, for not more than one family, or a congregate residence for 10 or less persons.

FAMILY: An individual or two or more persons related by blood or marriage, or a group of not more than 5 who need not be related by blood or marriage, living together in a dwelling unit.

HABITABLE SPACE (Room): A space in a structure for living, sleeping, eating or cooking. Bathrooms, toilet compartments, closets, halls, storage or utility space, and similar areas are not considered habitable space.

KITCHEN: Any room used or intended or designed to be used for cooking, preserving and preparing food.

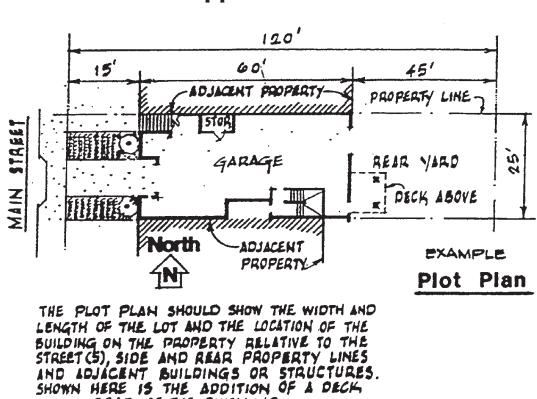
PLANNING CODE: The code is adopted to promote and protect the public health, safety, peace, morals, comfort, convenience and general welfare and is being enforced by the Planning Department.

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SUB-SIDEWALK SPACE BE REPAIRED OR ALTERED? (25) ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER (DES		D BEYOND RTY LINE?	NO Q	ON LOT? (IF YES, SHOW ON PLOT PLAN)		NSTITUTE A CHANGE OCCUPANCY? CALIF. CERT	NO
None (26) CONSTRUCTION LENDER (ENTE	R NAME AND BRANCH DESIGNATION RUCTION LENDER, ENTER "UNKNOW!	IF ANY,			ADDRESS		
No change shall be made in the Permit authorizing such chang Code. No portion of building or structur- any wire containing more than : Pursuant to San Francisco Bi owner is responsible for appro- dument is supportable for appro- dument in the same that be actual grade lines are not the actual grade lines are not the actual grade lines are not the ANY STIPULATION REQUIRE BUILDING NOT DE SOCCU ON THE BUILDING ON PERM APPROVAL OF THIS APPLI ELECTRICAL WIRING OR P	D HEREIN OR BY CODE MAY I PIED UNTIL CERTIFICATE OF T.OF OCCUPANCY GRANTED CATION DOES NOT CONSTI LUMBING INSTALLATIONS. / IST BE OBTAINED. SEPARA	use without first obtaining code and San Franci- onstruction, to be close la Penal Code. It shall be posted on : epit at building site. attion are assumed to b is showing correct grac did wall footings requires SE APPEALED. FINAL COMPLETION , WHEN REQUIRED. , WHEN REQUIRED. , VITE AN APPROVAL SEPARATE PERMIT APPROVAL SAF BE	The Housing the job. The be correct. If the lines, cuts red must be IS POSTED _ FOR THE FOR THE _ FOR T	HOLD HARMLESS CLAUSE: The and hold harmless the City and C demands and actions for damage negligence of the City and County County of San Francisco against all In conformity with the provisions of applicant shall have coverage undo r (V), whichewer is applicable. If h Mark the appropriate method of cor I hereby affirm under penalty of per () I. Have and will maint 3700 of the Labor Cc issued. My workers' co	is resulting from of of San Francisco, a such claims, demara section 3800 of the ir (I), or (II) designat owever item (V) is c pilance below: ury one of the follow intain a certificate ided by Section 3700 permit is issued. ain workers' competing de, for the perform mpensation insurand	ptance of the permit, sico from and agains serations under this p and to assume the del ds or actions. Labor Code of the S de below or shall indi hecked item (IV) mus ing declarations: of consent to self 0 of the Labor Code, fi nsation insurance, as	permit, regardless of ense of the City and tate of California, the ate item (ill), or (IV) be checked as well insure for workers or the performance or required by Sectior which this permit is umber are:
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DESCRIBED IN THIS APPLIC	ATION, ALL THE PROVISIONS O WILL BE COMPLIED WITH.	OF THE PERMIT AND	D ALL LAWS	<u></u>			1 01, 199
				Signature of Applicant or Agent		Date	

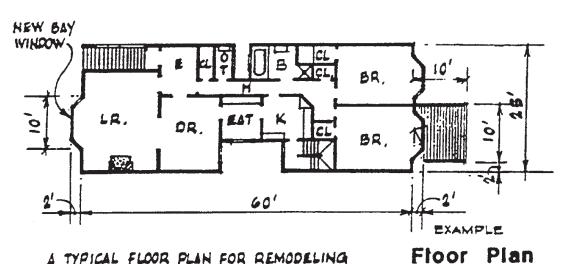
Appendix B

	DEPARTMEN	CA 94103-2414	SPECTIO	DN PERMIT# E200411089705 Permit Issued date: 11/08/2004 11:21:20 AM					
					Printed on: 11/08/20	004 11:12:52 AM			
JOB LOCATIO	ON:								
Job Address				t/Structure Number	Unit District				
224 CASELL	IAV		2689/0	04/0	8				
Occupancy	Residential		Floor/Suit	te			d by		
OWNER:									
Owner Name		Phon		Phone2	Homeow	ner permit approved	l by		
GREEN DAV	ID	(415)558-603	0					
CONTRACTO	DR:								
Company Name			License	Class	License Exp Da	ate Business Lic#			
CENTURY EI	LECTRIC CONS	ST	300955	5 C10	31-JUL-05	005219	C10		
Address 221 OAK ST		City SAN FRANCISCO	State CA	Zip Code 94102	Office Phone# (415)861-6522	Mobile Phone#			
Applicant/Occupa	ant Name			Phone					
				() -					
EID Use Only:		Building A	ppln. No		Plumbing permit	Nc			
DESCRIPTIO	N OF WORK:								
KITCHEN AN	ID BATHROOM	REMODEL.							
Work Scope)	# of		Fees					
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			L		Surcharge	\$15.99			
					Total Fees	\$261.99			
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	Α	ppendix	С		
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PERMIT NO. P		PERMIT TO INS		D COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO MENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION NG DIVISION 558-6054	·
JOB ADDRESS	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	ND MECHANICA		P	
1234- 60th Av		1000 01	Residen	tial	
NEW # STORIES OWNER	OF BLDG.		PHONE		
ADDRESS	& Mrs. Homeowner	'S	55	5-1212	AMENDMENT TO PERMIT NO.
1234 - 60th A	venue				JOB
	am licensed under provisi usiness and Professions o				JOB ADDRESS ZIP CODE
CONTRACTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE	CLASS	LICENSE #	LIC. EX. DATE	
A. Generic COMPANY NAME	Jan 01	,98	6655443	1 Oct 98	
Generic Construct:	ion				<u>Ω</u>
ADDRESS			PHONE		CROSS
1001 Building St	reet	STATE ZIP		- 1234 FICE USE ONLY	STREE
San Francisco		Ca 94112	1200203	tion our oner and the second	EET
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WATER PERMIT ISSUANCE				•55	
GAS PERMIT ISSUANCE FI				•55	DETACH AND POST ON
MECHANICAL PERMIT ISS	UANCE FEE:				JOB SITE
SEWER REPAIR OR TRAP	REPLACEMENT FEE:	•••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••			
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DATE INSP.		REMARKS			Sign:
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	and and the second s				
OTICE TO APPLICANT HOLD HARMLESS CLAUSE: on and against any and all claims, demands and actions for c ssume the defense of the City and County of San Francisco ag	The permittee(s) by acceptance of the permit, agree(s	s) to indemnify and hold harmless the City and Cours	nd County of San Francisco	9003-07 (REV. 2/95)	
some the defense of the City and County of San Francisco ag o conformity with the provisions of Section 3800 of the Labor C V), or (V), whichever is applicable. If however item (V) is check	ode of the State of California, the applicant shall have	coverage under (I), or (II) designated below	or shall indicate item (III), or		
nereby affirm under penalty of perjury one of the following declar) 1. I have and will maintain a certificate of consen			performance of the work for	VALID FOR ISSUANCE:	VALID FOR ISSUANCE:
which this permit is issued.	n insurance, as required by Section 3700 of the Labor (APPROVED DATE	APPROVED DATE
Carrier Y Y III. The cost of the work to be done is \$100 or less	Policy Number				
 IV. Icertify that in the performance of the work for laws of California. I further acknowledge that California and fail to comply forthwith with the j V. Icertify as the owner (or the agent for the own 	which this permit is issued, I shall not employ any person understand that in the event that I should become I understand that in the event that I should become provisions of Section 3800 of the Labor Code, that the g th that in the performance of the work for which this prior to the commencement of any work, will file a complete the commencement of any work, will file a complete the commencement of any work.	ermit is issued, I will employ a contractor who	o complies with the workers'	DEPARTMENT OF	CHIEF PLUMBING INSPECTOR
	Jan 01,98			BUILDING INSPECTION 1660 MISSION STREET	
Signature of Applicant or Agent	Date INSF	PECTOR'S REPORT		SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103	

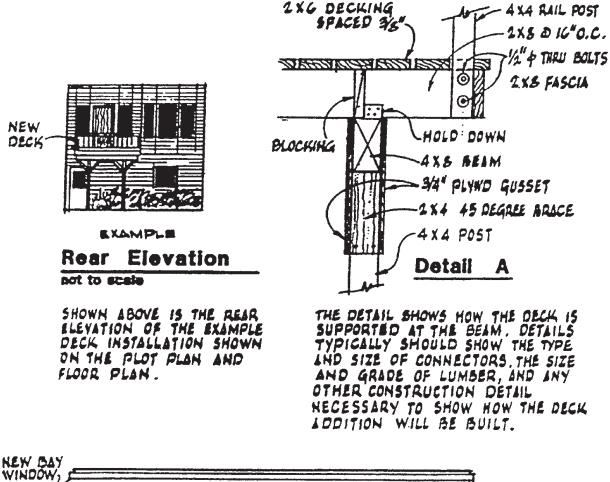


to the rear of the dwelling.

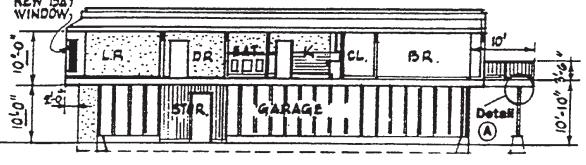


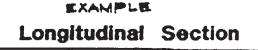
A TYPICAL FLOOR PLAN FOR REMODELING SHOULD SHOW THE AREA TO BE REMODELED PLUS ITS RELATION TO OTHER ROOMS ON THE SAME FLOOR. SHOWN HERE IS AN ADDITION OF A DECK TO THE REAR OF THE DWELLING AND THE INSTALLATION OF A NEW BAY WINDOW IN THE LIVING ROOM.

Appendix D



Appendix E





Dwg. scale: not to scale

SHOWN ABOVE IS A LONGITUDINAL SECTION SHOWING THE NEW DECK AND NEW WINDOW. WE HAVE SHOWN THE ENTIRE LONGITUDINAL SECTION IN OUR DECK / BAY WINDOW EXAMPLE EVEN THOUGH IT WOULD NOT BE REQUIRED FOR THE SAMPLE CONSTRUCTION.

Dei	partment	of B	uilding	Inspection	- How	to O	btain a	Permit	for 1	82	Family	/ Dwe	llings
	Juitinent		anans	mopeetion			stann a		101 1				

Notes: