

Do You Need a Permit for That?

Summertime means home projects and the City of Des Moines wants to help you prepare. Below are some of the more popular projects requiring permits prior to construction.

Permit applications are available online at dmgov.org or in the **Permit and Development Center Office**, located at 602 Robert D. Ray Drive. There is a base fee of \$50. The permit fee increases \$7 for every \$1,000 value of the project. Most applications for residential items like fences, decks and small renovations can be reviewed and approved within the same day. Additional fines and fees will be assessed for not obtaining a proper permit for your project.

To find out if your home project requires a permit, call the **City of Des Moines Permit and Development Center at (515) 283-4200**.



Interior Renovation: Cosmetic changes do not require a permit. For example, if you replace cabinets, perform a drywall patch or paint a room, these repairs do not require a permit.

However, if you plan to gut a room to the studs, open the ceiling, or finish a basement, you need a permit. Exposing plumbing or electric wiring generally means a permit is needed. A home addition also requires permits.

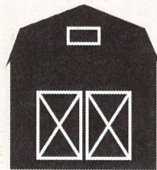


Exterior Changes: Exterior changes such as building or modifying stoops, attached and unattached decks, landings and stairs are considered structural and require a permit.

Cosmetic or material changes such as new siding, shingles and painting do not require a permit.

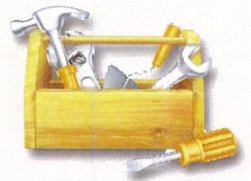
Sheds: Sheds that are 120 square feet (e.g. 10'x12') or smaller do not require a permit.

Anything *LARGER* does require a permit, and all sheds, no matter the size, are subject to setback requirements.



Garages: A permit is required for a new garage or garage addition.

Patios: No permit is needed for concrete patios or pavers in the rear yard.



Fences: Chain-link fences shorter than 4 feet or wood fences shorter than 3 feet do not require permits.

All other fences require permits. There are also setback and vision requirements to consider with taller fences.

Good Neighbor Tip: Maintain Your Yard



Unkempt yards attract critters and mischief. Trim overgrown shrubs and trees and maintain your lawn under 12 inches tall.

Get rid of yard waste with curbside pick-up or drop off large quantities at Spring Cleanup to Remove Urban Blight (SCRUB).

Report overgrowth to the **Weed Commission at 286-3705**.



Tired of Bags, Stickers and Bundles?

Sign up for Premium Yard Waste cart service and let the wheels do the work. For less than **\$11** per month, have it hauled away every week, all year long.

To order your own premium yard waste cart, call Public Works at 283-4950 today!

Want a *Greener* Lawn?

Learn how the city's storm water utility can help you improve your yard and offset the cost of soil quality restoration by as much as 50%. For information, call **283-4950** or apply online at <http://bit.ly/DSMrebates>.

Soil quality restoration improves soil health on new or existing lawns. Keeping water where it lands is the best way to protect everything downstream. It starts by reducing the compaction through deep aeration and then by adding compost to increase organic matter. This leads to healthier, functional soils that are better able to absorb more rainfall.

Yards with poor soil quality contribute to poor water quality due to their inability to absorb water or infiltrate it to the roots of turfgrass. During new home construction, topsoil is often lost while the remaining subsoil is compacted. Here in Des Moines, the soil's high clay content combined with a lack of organic matter can cause yards to suffer, especially in the summer heat, because yards need a lot of fertilizer and water to stay healthy.

