Do I Need a Permit?

Permit requirements are specified by the State of North Carolina and enforced by the Northampton County Code Enforcement Department.

The requirements are as follows:

**Building Permits**

- All structural repairs or additions require a permit. Repair to any structure must be based on the present Building Code; it is highly recommended that owners seek the advice of a professional builder. Some structural repairs may require a letter from a professional engineer or architect.
- Retaining walls, decks, gazebos are structural. The inspector must inspect the hole or trench for the footer before concrete may be poured.
- Replacement of entire wall or roof sections and replacement of studs or rafters require a permit.
- Permits are required for roofing if you are changing the fire rating on the roof.
- A permit is required for single-family dwellings if the work is non-structural, and the entire project is more than $15,000.

**Mechanical Permits**

- Installation of any new HVAC equipment/duct work requires a permit and load calculations.
- Installation of a Monitor Type direct vent heater requires a permit and must be done by a licensed NC mechanical contractor.
- Installation of piping or chimney lining: the installer does not require a license but must obtain a permit.

**Electrical Permits**

- All electrical work requires a permit.

**Plumbing Permits**

- **New** work – a permit is required for any new plumbing work done on fixed piping systems. This would include: installation of a vent for an unvented fixture, installation of a hot water tank (except some replacements) or installation of an expansion tank required on replacements.
- **Repair** work – no permit is required if the work is to repair the plumbing (referred to as “like for like”). This would include: replacement of hot water tanks (must be same capacity and BTU rating), PRV valves and extension pipes, faucets, faucet washers, sink and tub drains, fixture traps and seals on toilets.

**Who Can Do the Work?**

- **Rental units and dwelling units not occupied by the owner**: Permitted work must be performed by Licensed NC Contractors. A copy of the contract/scope of the work is required.
- **Primary Residence**: Owners may perform building, plumbing, electrical, and mechanical work on their primary residence; however, the above permitting rules apply.

There may be additional times when a permit is required. Please call our office if you have any questions.