



CITY OF PASADENA

BUILDING AND SAFETY DIVISION

175 North Garfield Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101-1704

(626) 744-4200 Fax: (626) 744-3979

www.cityofpasadena.net

WORK EXEMPT FROM Building, Electrical, Mechanical, & Plumbing Permit

NOTE: Zoning permit may be required for these exemptions.

CBC 105.2 & CRC R105.1: Work exempt from a permit: Exemption from permit requirements of this code shall not be deemed to grant authorization for any work to be done in any manner in violation of the provisions of this code or any other laws of ordinances of this jurisdiction including but not limited to the City of Pasadena.

A Building Permit is not required for the following:

1. One-story detached accessory structures used as tool and storage sheds, playhouses and similar uses, provided the floor area is not greater than 120 square feet (11 m²).
2. Non-masonry fences not over 6 feet (2.134 m) high.
3. Oil derricks.
4. Retaining walls that are not over 4 feet (1.219 m) in height measured from the bottom of the footing to the top of the wall, unless supporting a surcharge, impounding Class I, II, or IIIA liquids.
5. Water tanks supported directly on grade if the capacity is not greater than 5,000 gallons (18925 L) and the ratio of height to diameter or width is not greater than 2:1.
6. Sidewalks and driveways, not more than 30 inches (.762 m) above adjacent grade not exceeding 1:2 slope (8.33%), not adjacent to slope greater than 3:1, not located over any basement or story below and not part of an accessible means of egress or an accessible route as defined by Chapter 11A and 11B of California Building Code.
7. Painting, papering, tiling, carpeting, cabinets, counter tops and similar finish work that is not associated with an accessible means of egress or an accessible route as defined by Chapter 11A and 11B of California Building Code.
8. Temporary motion picture, television and theater stage sets and scenery.
9. Shade cloth structures constructed for nursery or agricultural purposes, not including service systems.
10. Ponds accessory to a Group R-3 occupancy that are less than 18 inches (.610 m) deep, are not greater than 5,000 gallons (18,925 L).



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11. Swings and other playground equipment accessory to a detached one-and two-family dwelling in group R-3 and U occupancy.
12. Window awnings in Group R-3 and U occupancies, supported by an exterior wall that do not project more than 54 inches from the exterior wall and not over 5 feet 9 inches in height.
13. Decks to a Group R-3 occupancy not exceeding 200 square feet (18.58 m²) in area, that are not more than 30 inches (762 mm) above natural grade at any point, are not within 10 feet (9.29 m) of a dwelling, and do not serve the exit door required by Section R311.4.
14. Non-fixed and movable fixtures, cases, racks, counters and partitions, not over five feet nine inches (1753 mm) in height and not placed in the accessible means of egress or an accessible route as defined by Chapter 11A and 11B of California Building Code.

An Electrical Permit is not required for the following:

1. Electrical wiring, devices, appliances, apparatus or equipment operating at less than 25 volts and not capable of supplying more than 50 watts of energy.
2. Electrical equipment used for radio and television transmissions, but do apply to equipment and wiring for power supply and the installations of towers and antennas.
3. Temporary installations of systems required for testing or servicing of electrical equipment or apparatus.
4. The provisions of this code shall not apply to electrical equipment used for radio and television transmission, but do apply to equipment and wiring a power supply and the installation of towers.
5. The installation of any temporary system required for the testing or servicing of electrical equipment or apparatus.



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A Mechanical Permit is not required for the following:

1. Portable heating and cooking or clothes drying appliances.
2. Portable ventilation appliances, portable evaporative coolers.
3. Portable cooling units.
4. A closed system of steam, hot- or chilled-water piping within any heating or cooling equipment regulated by this code.
5. Replacement of any minor part that does not alter approval of equipment or make such equipment unsafe.
6. Self-contained refrigeration system containing 10 pounds (4.54 kg) or less of refrigerant or that are actuated by motor or 1 horsepower (746 W) or less.
7. Portable-fuel-cell appliances that are not connected to a fixed piping system and are not interconnected to a power grid.

A Plumbing Permit is not required for the following:

1. The stopping of leaks in drains, water, soil, waste, or vent pipe; provided, however, that if any concealed trap, drainpipe, water, soil, waste or vent pipe becomes defective and it becomes necessary to remove and replace the same with new material, such work shall be considered as new work and a permit shall be obtained and inspection made as provided in this code.
2. The clearing of stoppages or the repairing or the repairing of leaks in pipes, valves or fixtures, and the removal and reinstallation of water closets, provided such repairs do not involve or require the replacement or rearrangement of valves, pipes or fixtures.