

1. **Permits.** *Although certain work is exempt from permits; exemptions 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 or ordinances of this jurisdiction. Any alteration, repair, remodel, renovation, or new construction in both residential and commercial buildings requires permits unless specifically exempted by the applicable code. Any work done to repair, replace, alter or install mechanical, electrical and plumbing equipment also requires a permit. Note: Permit applications and the submittal of plans must be done electronically.*
2. **Permit Exemptions.** *Some examples of the items exempt from a permit are:*
 - a. *Painting, carpet, tile, and wood flooring*
 - b. *Repair, using the same material, of exterior wood fascia, trim and soffits that does not exceed an aggregate of 128 square feet.*
 - c. *Typical wood or cyclone fences up to 8 feet tall that are not electrically energized.*
 - d. *Residential accessory structures such as storage sheds less than 120 square feet.*
 - e. *Uncovered decks accessory to a one- or two-family dwelling, up to 30 inches above the ground.*
3. **Deed Restrictions.** *The City of Houston Legal Department enforces certain deed restriction items. Confirm whether your property has deed restrictions before you build to ensure that your project will conform. Contact the Harris County Clerk's office at (713) 274-8680.*
4. **Licensed Trades.** *A general contractor's license is not required for the structural portion of the work; however, in general, mechanical, electrical and plumbing work must be permitted and performed by a licensed person.*
5. **Certificate of Occupancy.** *All commercial buildings require a Certificate of Occupancy to show conformance with the local building codes. The Certificate of Occupancy can either be issued after the completion of new construction or on an existing building, following inspection by the Occupancy Inspection team.*
6. **Exits.** *Many code items could save your life. Bedroom windows must be the correct size to ensure that in the event of a fire, you can get out and the Fire Fighters can get in. In commercial buildings, we ensure appropriate size and spacing of doors and hallways to allow exiting for the number of people in the building.*
7. **Inspections.** *All requests for construction inspections are completed the next business day following the request.*
8. **Energy Code.** *The State of Texas has an Energy Code which places restrictions on the building components to reduce the overall energy consumption of the building. Items affected by this code are windows, wall ceiling insulation, air-conditioning equipment, and ducts. If you plan on remodeling or repairing, ensure that your project conforms to this code.*
9. **Trees and Other Landscaping.** *Trees are protected by the City of Houston. Trees within the building setback line may not be cut down or destroyed. Required landscaping that has been provided in parking lots and on new building sites are required to be maintained for a year by City Ordinance.*
10. **Architects and Engineers.** *The State Board of Architectural Examiners and the State Board of Professional Engineers require that some buildings and structures be designed by a registered design professional, but not every project does. To confirm whether a registered design professional is required for a specific project please contact <https://www.tbae.texas.gov/> or <https://pels.texas.gov/>*

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Adopted Codes. *2021 International Building Code, 2021 International Residential Code, 2023 National Electrical Code (State Mandated), 2021 Uniform Mechanical Code, 2021 Uniform Plumbing Code, 2021 International Fire Code, 2021 International Existing Building, 2021 Swimming Pool and Spa Code, 2021 International Energy Conservation Code, ASHRAE 90.1-2019*

Who to Contact? *Non-permitted construction activity can result in the issuance of citations, so if you are not sure if a permit is required, or what code is to be followed, please contact us. We are here to help. You can contact the Customer Assistance Office at rmcacd@houstontx.gov or 832-394-9494.*

Web Resources. *The City of Houston has many online resources to take advantage of. The following are just a few:*

- **Houston Permitting Center:**
<https://www.houstonpermittingcenter.org/>
- **eServices (iPermits & ProjectDox)**
www.houstonpermittingcenter.org/our-services/eservices