



Fairfax County Department of Code Compliance (DCC) Unpermitted Construction



What is unpermitted construction?

This refers to construction done without required permits and/or inspections. It also applies to properties that have been bought and sold to new owners, regardless of when the construction was done. DCC responds to reports and enforces the requirement to obtain permits and inspections. Remember, just because a professional was hired doesn't mean a permit has been approved.

Need help getting a permit? Use the QR at the bottom of this flyer.



Why should someone get permits?

Virginia law requires property owners to get permits for construction and that work passes inspections. This helps protect the safety of everyone on the property - including residential and commercial buildings.

What types of work require a permit in Fairfax County?

A building permit is required for all new residential, commercial, and industrial construction – including alterations and equipment installations. Many common projects need permits, such as changes to walls, finished basements, installing heating or air conditioning systems, electrical, plumbing, decks, porches, sheds, and adding other detached structures exceeding 256 square feet.



Contact Us



We are here to help – if you have questions, want to make a report, or if you are the subject of enforcement and need to contact us. You can report problems online, reach us via email (codecompliance@fairfaxcounty.gov), phone (703-324-1300 / TTY 711), or visit us in person.

Fairfax County Department of Code Compliance
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To request this information in an alternate format, contact the Department of Code Compliance.
This Fairfax County, VA Publication (published 2024) summarizes a few regulations. See relevant codes for specific requirements.

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