

Do I need a permit in Wahkiakum County?

Note: Click on the blue link to access the document that is referenced.

- 1. Earth Moving:** The [State Environmental Policy Act \(SEPA\) Checklist / Application](#) is required for all earth moving / excavation. Reference the [SEPA Ordinance](#) and the [Wahkiakum County Critical Areas and Resource Lands Assessment Application](#).
- 2. Land Clearing:** The [Wahkiakum County Critical Areas and Resource Lands Assessment Application](#) may be required for land clearing. Reference the [Wahkiakum County Critical Areas Ordinance](#). The [Department of Natural Resources Forest Practices Application](#) may be required for land clearing.
- 3. Building Demolition:** The [Southwest Clean Air Agency's Notification of Demolition Application](#) is required for building demolition. Contact Southwest Clean Air Agency.
- 4. Building Remodel:** The [Wahkiakum County Building permit application](#) is required for building remodels. The [Southwest Clean Air Agency's Notification of Demolition Application](#) is required for structures built before 1978.
- 5. Building Structures:** The [Wahkiakum County Building permit application](#) is required for: houses, tiny houses, pole barns, sheds, or any other structure that will be converted to a permanent residence.

Permanent residences require plumbing, conditioned air, and need to meet [Washington State Energy Codes](#).

Permanent residences require potable water and sewer or septic that is approved by [Wahkiakum County Environmental Health Department](#) prior to applying for a building permit.

The Wahkiakum County Building Permit Application is not required for structures that are only used recreationally, do not have plumbing, or

conditioned air, and are detached from other structures. Recreational structures cannot be used as permanent residences.

6. **Attached Structures:** The [Wahkiakum County Building permit application](#) is required for any structures attached to other structures regardless of if the structure will have plumbing, conditioned air, or will be a permanent residence.
7. **Detached structures:** The [Wahkiakum County Building permit application](#) is required for detached structures if the structure will have plumbing, or conditioned air, or will be used as a permanent residence.
8. **Tiny Houses:** see **Building Structures** Frequently Asked Questions Above, and reference [Labor & Industries Tiny Houses](#) Information Packet
9. **Pole Barn:** see **Building Structures** Frequently Asked Questions Above
10. **Recreational Vehicle:** Recreational vehicles that will be used as permanent residences require their own potable water and sewer/ septic.
11. **Fences:** The [Wahkiakum County Building permit application](#) is required for fences that are over 6 feet high. The Wahkiakum County Building Permit Application is not required for fences less than 6 feet high.
12. **Foundations for a house:** The [Wahkiakum County Building permit application](#) is required for foundations for a house or mobile home.
13. **Sidewalks, driveways, or patios:** The Wahkiakum County Building Permit Application is not required for sidewalks, driveways, or patios. The [County Road Approach Application](#) is required for driveways that intersect a county road. The Wahkiakum County Public Works Department handles the County Road Approach permit application. Reference the [General Services](#) page, and the [Standards for Road Approach](#).

14. **Decks:** The [Wahkiakum County Building permit application](#) is required for Decks that are over 30 inches high, or are over 200 square feet in area. The Wahkiakum County Building Permit Application is not required for decks that are less than 30 inches high and are under 200 square feet in area.
15. **Docks:** The [State Environmental Policy Act \(SEPA\) Checklist / Application](#) is required for all work in the shoreline including new construction and maintenance. Reference the [SEPA Ordinance](#). The [Washington State Joint Aquatic Resource Permit Application \(JARPA\)](#), is required for all work in the shoreline. Submit all applications to Wahkiakum County Building and Planning Department. Reference the [JARPA Form Instructions](#) and the [example drawing](#).
16. **Electrical:** [Washington State Department of Labor & Industries](#) require an electrical permit for all electrical work in Wahkiakum County. The Wahkiakum County Building and Planning Department does not handle anything related to electrical, contact the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries with questions regarding electrical.
17. **Gas stove, propane fireplace, HVAC, ductless air pumps, heat pump replacement, cooling towers, air handlers:** The [Wahkiakum County Building permit application](#) is required for all mechanical work.
18. **Wood/Pellet Stove:** The [Wahkiakum County Building permit application](#) is required for wood/pellet stoves.
19. **Manufactured homes:** The [Wahkiakum County Manufactured Home Placement Permit Application](#) is required for the placement of a manufactured home. Reference the [Manufactured Home Permit Process](#). Contact the manufacturer of the manufactured home to obtain the details required on the permit application including foundation specification, engineered anchoring system, and approved septic and water source.