

# Residential Construction

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** What building codes do the Town of Merrimack follow, are they the NH State Adopted Codes: IBC, IMC, IPC, IEEC, ANSI 117.1 & State Fire Code SAF-C 6000?

**A:** Yes. All buildings, building components, and structures constructed in Merrimack New Hampshire shall comply with the state building code and state fire code. As of July 1, 2022 the New Hampshire State Building Codes, with adopted amendments, are;

2018 International Building Code  
2018 International Residential Code  
2018 International Plumbing Code  
2018 International Mechanical Code

2018 International Energy Conservation Code  
2018 NFPA 101 Life Safety  
2018 NFPA Fire Prevention Code Ref:  
(RSA 155-A-1. & 155-A:2)  
2020 NFPA 70 National Electric Code

**Q:** How long does it take to get a Building Permit?

**A:** It typically takes about 5 - 7 days for an application review, but it could take up to 2 weeks depending on the department work load, the number of applications received, the extent of the scope of work or pending approvals from other town departments, such as Waste Water, DPW, and Community Development.

**Q:** How many sets of plans/ drawings are required?

**A:** (2) Complete sets –One (1) 11” x 17” reduced size to be date stamped for the Building Division file and One (1) full size set this plan along with the building permit will be the approved construction plan, and is to be readily available on site.

**Q:** Do I need to submit stamped architectural plans for residential construction?

**A:** Most residential construction project do not require stamped plans. However, a design engineer may be required if the proposed construction is a multifamily, mixed use and condominium project that will require additional construction documentation and possible professional engineered certification, in order to verify code compliance.

**Q:** I have purchased an approved undeveloped lot that does not have municipal water and the subdivision does not have hydrants, am I required to install an automatic fire sprinkler system?

**A:** No, the IRC does not require automatic sprinkler systems for 1 & 2 family residential homes, however new subdivisions are approved with a means of fire protection, as conditions of approval.

**Q:** Do I need a permit for a shed?

**A:** Typically, a shed is considered an accessory storage structure that is 8’ x 10’ or 12’ x 12’. Sheds of this size do not require a building permit, however if the proposed shed is greater than 160 square feet a building permit is required

Q: What if I want to run electricity to my 12' X 12' shed or garage?

A: All new electrical work requires a permit; you will need to apply for an Electrical Permit and install the wiring according to the NFPA 70 National Electric Code.

Q: I want to redo my kitchen. I plan on replacing my kitchen cabinets and counter tops and add an island counter with new sink. Do I need a permit and what kind of permits do I need?

A: It depends on the proposed work, if there are no structural changes and you are not adding or demolishing walls then you may not need a building permit. By adding a kitchen sink you will need to apply for a Plumbing Permit and an Electrical Permit, if you are adding new lights and electrical outlets, the wiring is required to be installed according to the NFPA 70 National Electric Code and the Plumbing, in accordance to the International Plumbing Code.

Q: I want to replace my electric stove with a gas stove can I install the gas piping?

Yes, you can install gas piping in a single family dwelling if you are the owner and occupy as that single family dwelling is your primary residence. You are still required to obtain a Gas Permit, call and schedule inspections and all the work shall comply with the ICC Plumbing Code and NFPA 54.

Q: Do I need to hire an Electrician or can I do my own electrical work?

A: You can perform electrical wiring in your own single family home, provided that you are the owner and live at the property. You are still required to obtain an Electrical Permit, call and schedule inspections and all the work shall comply with the NFPA 70 National Electric Code.

Q: Do I need to hire a Plumber or can I do my own plumbing work?

A: You can install the plumbing in your own single family home, provided that you are the owner and live at the property as your primary dwelling. You are still required to obtain a Plumbing Permit, call and schedule inspections and all the work shall comply with the ICC Plumbing Code.