

Work Exempt From Permit

Planning & Development Services | Building Safety Division

www.lawrenceks.org/pds/building-safety

(Per Chapter V, Article 1, Section 5-142, of the City of Lawrence Building and Construction Code, as adopted in Ord. 9625, effective July 1, 2019)

Note: Exemptions from permit requirements of this Article shall not be deemed to grant authorization for any work to be done in any manner in violation of the provisions of this Article or any other laws applicable in this jurisdiction. Permits shall not be required for the following:

Buildings/Structures:

1. One-story detached accessory structures used as tool and storage sheds, playhouses, and similar uses, provided the floor area does not exceed 200 square feet.
2. Fences not over 6 feet high.
3. Oil derricks.
4. Retaining walls that are not over 6 feet in height, measured from the bottom of the footing to the top of the wall, unless supporting a surcharge or impounding Class I, II or IIIA liquids.
5. Water tanks supported directly on grade if the capacity does not exceed 5,000 gallons (18,925 L) and the ratio of height to diameter or width does not exceed 2:1.
6. Uncovered decks, sidewalks, and driveways not more than 30 inches above adjacent grade, and not over any basement or story below and are not part of an accessible route.
7. Painting, papering, tiling, carpeting, cabinets, counter tops and similar finish work.
8. Temporary motion picture, television, and theater stage sets and scenery.
9. Prefabricated swimming pools accessory to a one or two-family residential occupancy that are less than 24 inches deep, do not exceed 5,000 gallons and are installed entirely above ground.
10. Shade cloth structures constructed for nursery or agricultural purposes, not including service systems.
11. Swings and other playground equipment accessory to detached one or two-family dwellings.
12. Window awnings supported by an exterior wall that do not project more than 54 inches from the exterior wall and do not require additional support of Group R-3 and U occupancies.
13. Nonfixed and movable fixtures, cases, racks, counters and partitions not over 5 feet 9 inches in height.
14. Replacement roof coverings.

Electrical:

1. Repairs and maintenance: Minor repair work, including the replacement of lamps, ballasts, or luminaires, or the connection of approved portable electrical equipment to approved permanently installed receptacles.
2. Radio and television transmitting stations: The provisions of this Article shall not apply to electrical equipment used for radio and television transmissions, but do apply to equipment and wiring for a power supply and the installations of towers and antennas.
3. Temporary testing systems: A permit shall not be required for the installation of any temporary system required for the testing or servicing of electrical equipment or apparatus.
4. Listed cord-and-plug connected temporary decorative lighting.
5. Reinstallation of attachment plug receptacles but not the outlets therefor.
6. Replacement of branch circuit overcurrent devices of the required capacity in the same location.
7. Electrical wiring, devices, appliances, apparatus or equipment operating at less than 25 volts and not capable of supplying more than 50 watts of energy.

Gas:

1. Portable heating appliance.
2. Replacement of any minor part that does not alter approval of equipment or make such equipment unsafe.

Mechanical:

1. Portable heating appliance.
2. Portable ventilation equipment.
3. Portable cooling unit.
4. Steam, hot or chilled water piping within any heating or cooling equipment regulated by this Article.
5. Replacement of any part that does not alter its approval or make it unsafe.
6. Portable evaporative cooler.
7. Self-contained refrigeration system containing 10 pounds or less of refrigerant and actuated by motors of 1 horsepower (746 W) or less.
8. A part or assembly shall include compressor units and evaporator coils for refrigeration equipment.
9. Mechanical service work.

Plumbing:

1. The stopping of leaks in drains, water, soil, waste or vent pipe, provided, however, that if any drain pipe, water, soil, waste or vent pipe becomes defective and it becomes necessary to remove and replace 20 feet or more with new material, such work shall be considered as new work and a permit shall be obtained and inspection made as provided in this Article.
2. The clearing of stoppages 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.