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Shoreline
Municipal Code
Chapter 15.05
Chapter 20
IBC/IRC

6/2008

Permit Exemptions

The various codes and ordinances adopted by the City of Shoreline define certain activities and/or structures that are exempt from permitting requirements. The following overview identifies many of the exemptions. It should be noted that this information is not intended to replace the specific requirements of the City of Shoreline Municipal Code, International Residential Code, International Building Code, or any other adopted codes. Clearing and grading, tree removal and site development permits are not included in this brochure. See chapter 20.50.290 of the Shoreline Development Code for more information on these permit types.

Residential Building Permit Exceptions International Residential Code (IRC) Section R105

- One-story, detached residential accessory structures used as tool and storage sheds, playhouses and similar uses, provided the floor area does not exceed 200 square feet. (IRC & Shoreline Municipal Code 20.50.100)
Please note: Although detached accessory structures less than 200 square feet do not require a permit, the structures must be located minimum distances from property lines (*see Accessory Structures handout for more information*).
- Fences not over 6 feet high. (IRC/IBC)
- Retaining walls that are not over 4' in height measured from the bottom of the footing to the top of the wall, unless supporting a surcharge (examples: sloping backfill, adjacent structures, driveways, roads or parking areas) including rockeries less than 4' high unless surcharged by backfill sloping more than 2H:1V, adjacent structures, driveways, roads or parking areas. Height is measured from low-side grade to top of rockery.
- Water tanks supported directly upon grade if the capacity does not exceed 5,000 gallons and the ratio of height to diameter or width does not exceed 2 to 1.
- Platforms (including decks) not more than 30" above adjacent grade and not over any basement or story below, sidewalks and driveways. Height above grade is measured from the lowest ground elevation within 5'.
- Painting, papering, tiling, carpeting, cabinets, countertops, limited siding repair and similar finish work.
- Prefabricated residential swimming pools that are less than 24" deep.
- Swings and other playground equipment.
- Window awnings supported by an exterior wall which do not project more than 54" from the exterior wall and do not require additional support.
- Re-roofing of existing buildings where there are no structural elements being revised, including the roof diaphragm.

Exemptions from permit requirements should not be considered as an authorization for any work to be done in any manner in violation of building codes or any other laws or ordinances adopted by the City of Shoreline.

Note: This handout is for informational use only and is not to be substituted for the Shoreline Municipal Code and the International Codes.

**Commercial and Multifamily
Building Permit Exceptions
International Building Code (IBC) Section 105**

- 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
- Fences not over 6' high.
- Oil derricks.
- Retaining walls that are not over 4 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.
- Water tanks supported directly on grade if the capacity does not exceed 5,000 gallons and the ratio of height to diameter or width does not exceed 2:1.
- Sidewalks and driveways not more than 30" above adjacent grade, and not over any basement or story below and are not part of an accessible route.
- Painting, papering, tiling, carpeting, cabinets, counter tops and similar finish work.
- Temporary motion picture, television and theater stage sets and scenery.
- Prefabricated swimming pools accessory to a Group R-3 occupancy that are less than 24" deep, do not exceed 5,000 gallons and are installed entirely above ground.
- Shade cloth structures constructed for nursery or agricultural purposes, not including service systems.
- Swings and other playground equipment accessory to detached one- and two-family dwellings.
- Window awnings supported by an exterior wall that do not project more than 54" from the exterior wall and do not require additional support of Group R-3 and U occupancies.
- Nonfixed and movable fixtures, cases, racks, counters and partitions not over 5' - 9" in height.

Electrical

- Repairs and maintenance: A permit shall not be required for minor repair work, including the replacement of lamps or the connection of approved portable electrical equipment to approved permanently installed receptacles.

Gas

IBC & IRC - Section 105

International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC) – Section 106

- Portable heating, cooking or clothes drying appliances. (IRC/IBC/IFG)
- Replacement of any minor part that does not alter approval of equipment unsafe. (IRC/IBC/IFG)
- Portable fuel cell appliances that are not connected to a fixed piping system and are not interconnected to a power grid. (IRC)

Mechanical

International Mechanical Code – Section 106

IBC & IRC Section 105 & Uniform Plumbing Code – Section 103

- Portable heating appliance. (IMC/IBC/IRC)
- Portable ventilation appliances. (IMC/IBC/IRC)
- Portable cooling equipment. (IMC/IBC/IRC)
- Steam, hot or chilled water piping within any heating or cooling equipment regulated by this code. (IMC/IBC/IRC)
- Replacement of any minor part that does not alter approval of equipment or make such equipment unsafe. (IMC/IBC/IRC)
- Portable evaporative cooler. (IMC/IBC/IRC)
- Self-contained refrigeration systems containing 10 pounds or less of refrigerant or that are actuated by motors of 1 horsepower or less. (IMC/IRC)
- Portable fuel cell appliances that are not connected to a fixed piping system and are not interconnected to a power grid. (IMC/IRC)

Plumbing

Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) Section 103.1.2

- The stopping of leaks in drains, water, soil, waste or vent pipe: provided, however, that if any concealed trap, drainpipe, water soil, waste or vent pipe becomes defective and it becomes necessary to remove and replace the same with new material, such work will be considered as new work and **a permit must be obtained and inspections made** as provided for in the UPC.
- 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. (IMC/IBC/IRC/UPC)

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The Municipal Code (Title 15 Buildings and Construction) can be reviewed at mrsc.org

