

Building Dept Q & A

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Building Official



Yreka City Newsletter

Spring has arrived and for many, this is the time to tackle home improvements and all those deferred maintenance projects. Every year around this time, I receive many inquiries regarding what does and does not require a building permit. Keep in mind that a Planning Department permit approval is required for construction of all structures and all improvements to the exterior of buildings located within the Historic District. Here are several commonly asked questions:

Q. How big of a storage building may I construct or install without a building permit?



A. The building code exempts one-story detached accessory structures used as tool/storage sheds, playhouses, etc, provided the floor area does not exceed 120 square feet. For buildings without walls, the area is calculated by roof projection area. Setbacks from property lines are required to meet City codes. A permit for *any* electrical, plumbing, or mechanical installation is required for these otherwise exempt structures.

Q. Do I need a permit to install siding?

A. A permit may be required if you are installing a structural siding to provide lateral stability to your dwelling. Removing the existing siding provides an excellent opportunity to inspect the existing exterior walls for substandard insulation, wiring, framing, and water or insect intrusions, which could be mitigated at that time. However, if you are merely applying new siding over existing siding, then no permit is required.



Q. Do I need a permit to install a portable metal carport?

A. Yes! Any structure over 120 square feet requires a building permit. These structures also require engineering to verify that they meet the 40 pounds-per-square-foot roof snow loading and 80 mph wind design requirements for the City of Yreka. Bad events have and will continue to happen with structures that do not meet the current design criteria. Structures must also comply with City of Yreka setback requirements.

Q. Is a permit required for replacing windows?

A. Yes and no. A permit is not required for replacing windows that are the same size as the original windows; however, if the window opening will be wider, requiring new framing, then you must get a building permit. The replacement windows must not negatively affect the emergency egress (exit) of the current window. Replacement windows may actually increase the egress functionality. Safety glazing may be required to comply with building code changes made since the original windows were installed. The replacement windows also must meet the minimum requirements of the California Energy Code.



Q. Is a building permit required if I am only overlaying my existing roof covering?

A. Yes! The code allows a maximum of two layers of asphalt shingles, so removal of the existing roofing might not be required. Your contractor's licensing and proof of insurance will be verified by us before the issuance of a permit.

These are a few of the many questions I am asked regarding permit requirements. Feel free to call the City of Yreka Building Department at (530) 841-2322 with any questions you may have regarding permit requirements.

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Important Numbers

- City Hall/Water (530) 841-2386
- Fire Dept (530) 841-2383
- Police Dept (530) 841-2300
- Public Works (530) 841-2370
- Senior Program (530) 841-2365



Elected Officials

- Tom Amaral - Mayor
- Jim Griffin - Mayor Pro Tempore
- Rory McNeil - Councilmember
- David Simmen - Councilmember
- Jason Darrow - Councilmember
- Liz Casson - City Clerk
- Michael Pavlik - City Treasurer

Springtime Maintenance



Keep your home and property safe this summer. In the coming months, weeds and grasses will dry out and present a fire danger. Please take the time now to cut or mow any tall vegetation around your home and property, including vacant lots. Starting early will help to protect your home later and could prevent a wildland fire. If your parcel is fairly small the city requires you to mow all of the weeds, however, if your parcel is large, the City accepts mowing a minimum 40-foot perimeter to the height of four inches or less along all sides of the property. Keeping your yard and planting beds cleaned regularly of debris and fallen leaves, along with trimming trees and bushes can help prevent fire danger. Remember to remove all dead trees, brush, shrubs & trash from around your yard & structures. Clearing roofs and gutters of leaves would also be helpful. There are many things you can do to make your yard visually appealing and more resistant to flames. The City of Yreka appreciates your effort in keeping your homes and surroundings areas fire safe this summer.

Helpful Fire-Safe Landscaping Tips



Choose succulent plants and those that store a lot of moisture. Avoid conifers, like pines, firs, spruces, junipers, cedars, and Arizona cypress, as they are more flammable, even when they are well-watered. Plant greenery that grows low to the ground and holds water. Limit planting bushes too close to the house or other plants. If a bush or tree does catch on fire, the flames will have a harder time spreading if nothing is nearby. Keep tall shrubs away from the house. Flames can climb them ladder-style up to the eaves of the house. Thin out dense groups of trees or bushes to slow the spread of fire and keep greenery pruned.

Are you tired of writing checks every month for your City of Yreka utility bills?

Never write a check again! We have electronic bill pay! Paying your water/sewer/landfill/fire bills each month can be effortless. Your monthly billing can be deducted electronically from your checking or savings account on the **10th of each month**. It's as simple as completing the form below and providing a voided check! Return completed forms to City Hall.



AUTHORIZATION FOR AUTOMATIC PAYMENT

City of Yreka, 701 Fourth St, Yreka, CA 96097 (530) 841-2386

I hereby authorize the City of Yreka to initiate automatic payments to be taken out of my checking account each month from the financial institution named below for all charges actually incurred for the utility account described below. I acknowledge the origination of ACH transactions to my account must comply with the provisions of U.S. law.

BANK INFORMATION:	UTILITY INFORMATION:	Account #
Financial Institution: _____	Account Name: _____	
Address: _____ Phone # _____	Service Address: _____	
City / State / Zip: _____	(If different from above) Mailing Address: _____	
Routing # _____ Account # _____	City / State / Zip: _____	
	Printed Name: _____ Phone # _____	
PLEASE INCLUDE A VOIDED CHECK	Signature: _____ Date: _____	

This authorization will remain in full force and effect until the City of Yreka has received written notification from the account holder of termination. Both parties reserve the right to terminate this authorization upon the written notice to the other. In the event of a notice of termination, the City shall have up to 60 days to act upon the notice.

COMPLETE FORM AND RETURN TO CITY HALL WITH A VOIDED CHECK.