



Alabaster Fire Department
Building and Fire Prevention Services

GUIDE FOR HOMEOWNERS

DO IT SMART, DO IT SAFELY

If you are considering a “Do-It-Yourself” home remodeling project, it is important to contact your local Building and Fire Prevention Services at (205) 664-6823 to find out if permits are needed and learn about zoning and building requirements. Before proceeding with your project, be certain your home updates are possible and legal.

THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE YOU BEGIN A PROJECT:

- **A BUILDING PERMIT ENSURES** that a certified inspector will examine the project to determine if the work is done safely and code compliant. For do-it-yourselfers who don't do installations or construction work daily, this is particularly valuable as it will give you the opportunity to ask questions of an expert in the field. Incorrect building or remodeling can cause house fires, flood damage and structural problems.
- **BUILDING PERMITS ARE TYPICALLY REQUIRED** for structural remodeling, work involving electrical wiring, mechanical and plumbing fixtures or devices, altering the roof line, or moving walls and especially load bearing walls. You may not need a permit for installing new floor coverings, painting or making minor repairs. If a permit is required, don't proceed without one. You could be putting your home and family in jeopardy and setting the precedent for costly repairs down the line.
- **BE REALISTIC ABOUT YOUR SKILL LEVEL**-Never take on a project that you will never be able to accomplish.
- **IF YOU ARE DOING THE WORK YOURSELF**, call your local Building and Fire Prevention Services at (205) 664-6823. Getting a permit is often simple on homeowner projects with very little review time.

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- **IF WORKING WITH A LICENSED CONTRACTOR**, be sure to use their expertise and relationship with the Alabaster Fire Department Building and Fire Prevention Services.
- **CHECK A CONTRACTOR'S "STATE OF ALABAMA" LICENSE** to ensure that the contractor is legally licensed and bonded to work in the City of Alabaster and State of Alabama. Beware of a contractor willing to work without permits.
- **USE OR INSIST THAT THE** contractor uses only licensed builders, electricians, plumbers/gasfitters and mechanical sub-contractors. Along with homeowners working on their own homes, only licensed plumbers / gasfitters, electricians and mechanical contractors are legally allowed to perform work in the State of Alabama and City of Alabaster.
- **ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING** located at 1953 Municipal Way has qualified personnel and resources to help you through the permitting and inspection process.
- **ALWAYS REQUEST COPIES OF PERMITS** and inspections for your records. All permits issued by the Planning and Safety Division have time limits on the constructions process.
- **CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY** – A Certificate of Occupancy or a Certificate of Completion will be issued, by the Planning and Safety Division, once final inspections are approved. It is unlawful to occupy a structure prior to a Certificate of Occupancy being issued.