

Homeowner Electrical Permit Information Sheet

Who can perform the electrical work in the home?

Pottawattamie County requires all electrical work to be performed by a State of Iowa licensed, bonded and insured electrical contractors and their employees.

An owner may not do electrical work in any portion of the building that is rented, leased or occupied by others.

When is an electrical permit required?

An electrical permit and electrical inspections are required for any electrical work associated with new construction, remodeling, replacement or repair of electrical wiring, apparatus or equipment. "Electrical work" means the installation, altering, repairing, planning, or laying out electrical wiring, apparatus, or equipment for light, heat, power or other purposes. An electrical permit is required prior to the start of any of the described work above.

Can a homeowner wire a detached garage, pole barn, or shed?

Yes, Pottawattamie County allows homeowners to wire their own buildings as long as the structure *is 3,000 square feet or less, and detached from the dwelling*. Permits are required and all NEC Codes apply.

Who can apply for an electrical permit?

A licensed, bonded and insured electrical contractor and their employees. When the electrical work is being performed by a homeowner, the homeowner then applies for the permit. In signing and submitting a permit application the homeowner is acknowledging that they own and occupy the home where the work will be performed and they personally and physically will perform all of the electrical work described on the permit application. Homeowners **shall not** obtain permits for another entity who is physically installing the electrical components.

When is electrical work inspected?

Electrical work may require a number of inspections:

1. A "rough-in" inspection is required prior to insulation, sheet-rock, paneling or other similar materials. Except for final connection to switches, receptacles, and lighting fixtures, all ground and other wires inboxes must be spliced and "pigtailed" prior to the rough-in. Do not install devices such as receptacles or switches prior to the rough-in inspection being approved. Underground wiring must be inspected before the trench is backfilled. If wiring is concealed prior to the rough-in it is required by code that those materials be removed to make the necessary inspection.
2. A final inspection is required when the permitted electrical work is complete and ready to use.

This information is a guide to the most common questions. It is not intended, nor shall it be considered, a complete set of requirements.