

Work that **DOES NOT** Require a Building Permit:

Building

One-story, detached accessory structures where footprint is less than 120 SF.
Fences less than 7 feet tall. NOTE: May require Design Review – check with a planner.
Retaining walls less than 4 feet tall and *do not* carry a surcharge (non-structural). Measure from bottom of footing to top of wall.
Sidewalks and driveways that are on private property and do not encroach into the public right-of-way.
Painting (interior or exterior), papering, tiling, carpeting, cabinets, counter tops and similar finish work.
Decks, *if* they are: less than 200 SF in area, less than 30 inches above grade (at any point), not attached to buildings, and do not serve the exit door (residence requires at least one).
Water tanks, *if* they are: supported directly on grade, hold 5,000 gallons or less, and ratio of height to diameter does not exceed 2:1.
Prefab swimming pools less than 24 inches deep.
Swings and other playground equipment.
Window awnings that are supported by an exterior wall, do not extend more than 54 inches from the wall, and do not require additional support.

Electrical

Listed cord-and-plug connected temporary decorative lighting.
Reinstallation of attachment plug receptacles (but not their outlets).
Replacement of branch circuit overcurrent devices of required capacity in the same location.
Electrical wiring, devices, appliances, apparatus or equipment operating at less than 25 volts, and not capable of more than 50 watts of energy.
Minor repair work: replacement of lamps or connection of approved portable electrical equipment to approved permanently installed receptacles.

Gas

Portable heating, cooking, or clothes drying appliances.
Replacement of minor parts that do not alter approval of equipment or make equipment unsafe.
Portable fuel-cell appliances not connected to fixed piping systems, and not connected to a power grid.

Mechanical

Portable heating and ventilation appliances.
Portable cooling units and portable evaporative coolers.
Steam, hot- or chilled-water piping, as contained in any heating / cooling equipment regulated by code.
Self-contained refrigeration systems containing 10 pounds or less of refrigeration, or have motors of 1hp or less.
Portable fuel-cell appliances not connected to a fixed piping system or interconnected to a power grid.
Replacement of any minor part that does not make equipment unsafe or alter approval.

Plumbing

Stopping leaks in drains, water, soil, waste, or vent pipe. Exceptions: when any concealed trap, drainpipe, soil, waste or vent pipe becomes defective and needs to be replaced.
Clearing a stoppage or repairing a leak in pipes, valves, and fixtures, and removing and reinstalling toilets. Exceptions: when valves, pipes, or fixtures need to be replaced or rearranged.

Building Permits Required (unless work falls under the exceptions above)

2016 California Building Code Section 105.2

“Work exempt from permit: Exemptions from permit requirements of this code shall not be deemed to grant authorization for any work to be done in any manner in violation of the provisions of this code or any other laws or ordinances of this jurisdiction.”

“Over-the-Counter” Permits, NO plans required

- Re-roof, with or without tear-off
- Water Heaters, Furnaces, or other minor appliance upgrades.
- Minor repairs or improvements that do not affect the structural integrity of the building, use or classification of a building, or the function and placement of facilities within. (Ask building staff.)
- Some code enforcement permits, as authorized by building staff.
- Small scale remodels, as authorized by building staff.

2016 California Building Code Section 1.8.4.1

“Permits. A written construction permit shall be obtained from the enforcing agency prior to the erection, construction, reconstruction, installation, moving or alteration of any building or structure.”

Access to the complete California Building Standards Code (California Code of Regulations, Title 24)

<http://www.bsc.ca.gov/codes.aspx>

Contact City of Arcata:

<http://www.cityofarcata.org>

736 F Street Arcata, CA 95521

(707) 822-5951

Building Department: (707) 822-5956

Building Official: (707) 825-2138

Building Inspector: (707) 825-2144

City Manager’s Office: (707) 822-5953

Community Development (Planning): (707) 822-5955

Engineering Department: (707) 822-2128

Environmental Services: (707) 822-8184

Fire Department: (707) 825-2000

Police Department: (707) 822-2428

Arcata Land Use Code (<http://www.cityofarcata.org> or <http://www.codepublishing.com/ca/arcata/>)

Section 9.30.050

Table 3-4 - Allowable Hours of Construction

Day	Allowable Hours
Monday through Friday	8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, Holidays	No heavy equipment-related construction activities allowed