



# WORK EXEMPT FROM PERMIT

Any owner or owner's authorized representative who intends to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish or change the occupancy of a building or structure, or to erect, install, enlarge, alter, repair, remove, covert or replace any electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system, the installation of which is regulated by adopted codes, or to cause any such work to be performed, shall first obtain the required permit.

## California Residential and Building Codes Permit Exemptions:

Exemption from the permit requirements of these codes does not grant authorization for any work to be done in violation of the provisions of this code or any other laws or ordinances of this jurisdiction.

- One-story detached accessory structures used as tool sheds, playhouses and similar uses, provided that the floor area does not exceed 120 sq. ft. These structures still be regulated by [Section 710A](#) of CBC, despite exemption from permit (Planning and Zoning Division regulations still apply).
- Fences not over 7 feet in height.
- Retaining walls not over four feet (4') in height measured from the bottom of the footings to the top of the wall, unless supporting a surcharge (NOT FOR HILLSIDES).
- Water tanks supported directly on grade if the capacity is not greater than 5,000 gallons and the ratio of height to diameter or width is not greater than 2:1.
- Sidewalks and driveways not more than 30 inches 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 (does not include kitchen remodels).
- 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 inches deep, are not greater than 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 (Planning and Zoning Division regulations still apply).
- Window awnings in group R-3 and U occupancies, supported by an exterior wall that do not project more than 54 inches from the exterior wall and do not require additional support.
- Nonfixed and movable fixtures, cases racks, counters and partitions not over 5 feet 9 inches in height.
- Decks not exceeding 200 square feet in area, that are not more than 30 inches above grade at any point, are not attached to a dwelling and do not serve the required exit door.
- Removing and replacing broken panes of glass

## California ELECTRICAL Code Permit Exemptions:

- Listed cord-and-plug connected temporary decorative lighting.



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- Reinstallation of attachment plug receptacles but not the outlets thereof.
- Replacement of branch circuit overcurrent devices of the required capacity in the same location.
- Electrical wiring, devices, appliances, apparatus, or equipment operating at less than 25 volts and not capable of supplying more than 50 watts of energy.
- Minor repair work, including the replacement of lamps or the connection of approved portable electrical equipment to approved permanently installed receptacles.
- Repairs and maintenance: Minor repair work, including the replacement of lamps or the connection of approved portable electrical equipment to approved permanently installed receptacles.
- Radio and television transmitting stations: The provisions of this code shall not apply to electrical equipment used for radio and television transmissions but do apply to equipment and wiring for a power supply and the installations of towers and antennas.
- Temporary testing systems: A permit shall not be required for the installation of any temporary system required for the testing or servicing of electrical equipment or apparatus.

## **California MECHANICAL Code Permit Exemptions:**

- A portable heating appliance, portable ventilating equipment, portable cooling unit,
- portable evaporative cooler
- Replacement of any part that does not alter its approval or make it unsafe.
- Self-contained refrigeration system containing 10 pounds or less of refrigerant and actuated by motors of 1 horsepower or less.

## **California PLUMBING and GAS Code Permit Exemptions:**

- The stopping of leaks in drains, soil, waste or vent pipes, provided, however, that if any concealed trap drainpipe, water, soil, waste, and vent pipe becomes defective and it becomes necessary to remove and replace the same with new material, such work shall be considered as new work, and a permit shall be obtained and inspection made as provided in this code
- The clearing of stoppage or the repairing of leaks in pipes, valves, or fixtures, and the removal and reinstallation of water closets, provided that such repairs do not involve or require the replacement or rearrangement of valves, pipes, or fixtures.
- Removing and replacing faucets
- Gas to portable heating, cooking or clothes drying appliances.
- Replacement of any minor part that does not alter approval of equipment or make such equipment unsafe for gas appliances.