



# Building Permit Submittal Requirements

The following items are required to be submitted as applicable for all building permits for new housing units and approved prior to issuance of a building permit.

- A completed online building permit application with all applicable items on the application form correctly and fully completed.
- PDF formatted plans that when printed on 36" x 24" size sheets, the plans will be to scale and readable at the scale indicated on the plans. Plan sheets must be oriented and generally readable in landscape orientation.
- Applicable supporting documentation shall be submitted in PDF format and shall be readable and printable at a minimum size of 8-1/2" x 11" size pages. Applicable supporting documentation may be submitted and oriented in landscape or portrait orientation and shall be readable in the orientation provided.
- All plans must be drawn to scale using architectural drafting techniques and symbols and with sufficient clarity, detailing and notations to describe the proposed construction. For alteration or addition projects, elements shown on the plans should be designated as new (N) or existing (E).
- Callouts and plan notations are required to indicate the work and identify items and specify the methods and materials to be used. Text size must be not less than 9-point Arial font or equal or 1/8" height neatly hand printed and easily readable in landscape orientation. **[NOTE: Text that is too small or unreadable is one of the most common plan corrections.]**
- Plans and documentation prepared by a licensed or registered design professional must be signed and stamped by that individual.

## ***Purpose of Plans***

The purpose of the plans is to clearly show the scope of the proposed work so that the all parties involved in the project (i.e. contractors, owner-builder, building inspector, etc.) can quickly and easily understand the project requirements. The plans also provide a permanent building department record of the work performed. The plans should be well organized with a specific purpose and with all illustrations clearly referenced.

Plan views show elements or portions of the structure looking from above. The plan view is like slicing the structure horizontally, peeling off the top and showing what is left. Sectional views and details show the inside of building components or a structure by cutting an imaginary plane through the object and everything in front of the plane is removed to show the cut surface and interior details. Elevations show how the finished building will look, each elevation depicting one side or wall.

Building department plan review is needed so that building department staff can review the plans to determine the minimum code requirements that should be shown and/or indicated on the plans prior to plan approval. Once the plans are approved and a permit is issued by the building department, the project must be constructed in accordance with the approved plans. When job site deviations from the approved plans are needed, the plans must be revised and resubmitted to the building department for approval prior to performing the revised work. The costs for plan review services are based on the actual time it takes to review the plans. **Good plans will be easy to understand, will take less time to review and will therefore be less costly to the permit applicant.**

Supporting documentation is information submitted in support of the submitted drawings. Supporting documentation becomes a part of the plans. Typical types of supporting documentation are listed below under Other Supporting Documentation.

## Plan Check Submittal – Required Plans and Supporting Documentation

- Building Permit Application Form**  
Available online at <https://www.sonomacity.org/building-forms> . A plan check deposit will be required to be paid at the time plans are submitted for plan review. The applicant must fully review and complete the applicable sections of the permit application and provide an estimate of the project cost on the building permit application.
- Cover Page or Title Sheet**  
**Provide for all projects.** Specify job title and provide an index of the drawings included. Specify the job address, name address, telephone number and e-mail address of person who prepared the plans, owner's name and address, the assessor's parcel number for the site and the flood zone for the property. Provide a project narrative with a complete and detailed description of the scope of work. Specify site area square footage and new and existing floor area square footage totals for all structures. Specify the building code occupancies, type of construction and respective floor areas for the building. Provide a note on the title page of the plans stating that all new work shall conform to the currently adopted California Building Standards Code as applicable and as amended by the Sonoma Municipal Code. Specify the code version used.  
If allowed by the Plans Examiner, enumerate all proposed deferred submittal items. A statement should be provided indicating that "No work shall be performed on deferred submittal items until the submittal has been approved by the Building Department."
- Site Plan** (1/8"= 1'-0", 1"= 20')  
**Required for all new structures and additions.** Show locations of all buildings, property lines, creeks, easements and other improvements. Specify dimensions from all property lines to structures. Provide an arrow designating "North".
- Erosion and Sediment Control BMP's for Minor Work** (1/8"= 1'-0", 1"= 20')  
**Required for all soil disturbing construction activities including clearing, excavation or filling.** Non-Site-Specific and Typical Erosions and Sediment Control BMPs apply to small soil disturbing activities and where new impervious surfaces less than 2,500 square feet occur. Resurfacing of existing impervious surfaces are exempt. Information is available on the City of Sonoma website at <https://www.sonomacity.org/helpful-information>. *May be combined with site plan.*
- Grading, Stormwater Control Plan for Single-Family Homes and other Regulated Projects** ( 1"= 20')  
**Required for projects that create or replace over 2,500 square feet of impervious surface** Resurfacing of existing impervious surfaces are exempt. See the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan Requirements Checklist/Flowchart available on the City website at <https://www.sonomacity.org/helpful-information>. The Erosion and Sediment Control Plan must show drainage management areas, how stormwater will be retained on site to the maximum extent feasible and how stormwater draining from site will be filtered. Provide details for construction of bio-retention facilities and improvements. Specify all required CALGreen measures. The grading plan must show all existing and proposed surface flows and underground drainage improvements.
- Accessibility Plans and Details** (scale varies)  
Dimensioned and detailed plans to show and specify all of the applicable requirements, including dimensions, of Chapter 11B (Accessibility to Public Buildings, Public Accommodations, Commercial Buildings), as applicable of the CA Building Standards Code.
- Means of Egress Plan** (scale varies)  
Detail the location, construction, size and character of all portions of the means of egress including the path of the exit discharge to the public way in compliance with the provisions of this code. In other than occupancies in Groups R-2, R-3, and I-1, the construction documents shall designate the number of occupants to be accommodated on every floor, and in all rooms and spaces.
- Foundation Plan** (1/4"=1'-0")  
Required for all new structures, additions or alterations to existing structures affecting the foundation. Show location and size of all foundations and footings and required reinforcing.

- Floor Framing Plan and Details** (1/4"=1'-0")  
**Required for each framed floor where floor framing is installed or altered.** Show all floor framing elements. Specify size, grade and species of materials and show direction and spacing of joists. Specify all joist hangers and beam connections. Show stairway framing. *First-floor framing plan may be combined with foundation plan for simple structures.*
- Floor Plan** (1/4"=1'-0")  
**Required for all new structures, additions and alterations.** Specify the use of all rooms and areas. Show size, type and location of all walls, doors, windows, rooms, shear walls, holddowns, cabinets, fixtures, stairways, posts, equipment, access panels, handrails, materials, etc., to clearly indicate the layout of the structure. Indicate all new and existing elements and fully dimension the plan. Indicate all changes in floor elevation. Show and specify all mechanical equipment, register locations, plumbing and electrical fixtures, switching, receptacles, appliances and other items if not otherwise shown on separate sheets. Provide door and window schedules, legends and general code notations on the floor plan sheet.
- Electrical Plan** (1/4"=1'-0")  
**Required when electrical work is proposed.** Show all electrical fixtures, switching, receptacles, appliances, fans, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, services and electrical equipment. Specify required GFCI and AFCI circuits. Provide a lighting fixture and control schedule to specify all light fixtures, lighting control types and configurations (groupings) to conform to mandatory energy requirements. Provide an electrical legend showing and specifying all electrical symbols used on the drawings. Specify size of electrical service. *May be combined with floor plan for small and simple alteration and addition projects.*
- Mechanical Plan** (1/4"=1'-0")  
**Required when mechanical work is proposed.** Show mechanical duct layout, sizes and type, register locations, fire dampers and mechanical equipment. Provide HVAC sizing calculations. Specify all equipment on energy documentation. Provide a mechanical legend showing and specifying all mechanical symbols used on the drawings. *May be combined with floor plan for small and simple alteration and addition projects.*
- Plumbing Plan** (1/4"=1'-0")  
**Required for restaurants and complex plumbing systems.** Show and specify location, size and type of all plumbing fixtures and water heating equipment. Show size and location sewer, water, fire sprinkler, irrigation and gas service piping. For commercial food serving establishments and other commercial uses with complex plumbing systems, show all branch water piping, branch gas piping, drain, waste and vent piping and sizing. *May be combined with floor plan for simple structures.*
- Ceiling Framing Plan** (1/4"=1'-0")  
**Required when ceiling joists are proposed.** Show location of all supporting walls and elements. Specify size, grade & species of materials and show direction and spacing of joists. *May be combined with floor plan for small and simple alteration and addition projects.*
- Truss Layout Plan** (1/8"= 1'-0", 1/4"=1'-0")  
**Required when trusses are proposed.** Show and specify all trusses, truss spacing and truss connections. Identify each truss corresponding with truss design documentation. Show all walls and beams supporting trusses.
- Roof Framing Plan** (1/8"= 1'-0", 1/4"=1'-0")  
**Required for all new and altered roof framing elements.** Show all walls, beams or other elements supporting roof framing elements. Specify size, grade & species of materials and show direction and spacing of rafters.
- Full Cross-Sections** (1/4"=1'-0, 1/2"=1'-0")  
**Required to show varying construction conditions, proportions and materials in new structures, additions and structural modifications to existing structures.** Show and specify size, type, spacing, slope and connection of all materials. Separate cross-sections should be developed for each varying condition.
- Foundation Details** (3/4"- 3"=1'-0")  
**Required when new foundations or footings are proposed.** Show and specify materials, size, type and spacing of all foundation elements and materials. A separate detail is required for each different condition.

- Framing/Structural Details** (3/4"= 3"=1'-0")  
**Required when new framing is proposed.** Provide sufficient details to clearly indicate construction and attachment of members. Show and specify materials, size, type and spacing of all framing elements. A separate detail is required for each different condition. Show eave details, truss connection details, post-to-beam connections, post-to-footing connections, hold-down details, rim joist, ledger and cantilever details, flashing details, etc.
- Exterior Elevations** (1/8"= 1'-0". 1/4"=1'-0")  
**Required for new structures, additions and exterior modifications to existing structures.** Show all sides of the building. Show and specify all exterior materials, vents, doors, windows, trim, gutters, stairways, handrails, roof pitch, roofing, chimneys, etc.
- Interior Elevations** (1/8"=1'-0", 1/4"=1'-0")  
**Necessary to show interior finishes, casework, hardware, fixtures and restroom configuration.** Unless bathrooms or kitchens are involved, may not be necessary for small and simple alteration and addition projects.
- Fire Sprinkler Plan** (1/8"= 1'-0", 1/4"=1'-0")  
**Required when fire sprinkler system is proposed.** Show and specify size, type and location for all sprinkler piping, sprinkler heads, controllers, valves, alarms and other sprinkler equipment. Provide pipe sizing calculations for calculated systems. *Fire sprinkler plans may be submitted under a separate fire sprinkler permit which must be issued prior to installation.*
- Roof Plan** (1/8"= 1'-0", 1"= 20')  
**Required for all new roofs or modifications to existing roof structures.** Show overhead view of roof to indicate roof slope, valleys, hips, ridges, roof drainage and roof materials. *May be combined with plot plan for simple structures.*
- Restaurant Equipment Plan** (1/4"=1'-0")  
**Required for restaurants and commercial food processing, storage or preparation.** Show and specify location, size and type of all equipment, appliances and fixtures used for commercial food processing, storage or preparation.
- Landscaping & Irrigation Plan** (1/8"= 1'-0", 1/4"=1'-0")  
**Required when landscaping or irrigation systems are proposed.** Landscaping and irrigation systems must comply with the requirements of [Sonoma Municipal Code Chapter 14.32](#). Landscaping plans, irrigation systems and irrigation water use calculations often require Design Review Commission approval prior to submittal of the documents for a building permit.

## **Other Supporting Documentation**

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- CALGreen Checklist and Documentation**  
 Required for all new residential and nonresidential buildings, residential additions and alterations, and some nonresidential alterations and addition projects. Required CALGreen checklists are available on the City's web site at <https://www.sonomacity.org/calgreen>. Verification of compliance is typically performed by a CALGreen special inspector listed by the City of Sonoma and hired by the property owner or applicant. In addition to submitting the appropriate CALGreen checklist, additional CALGreen compliance documentation may be necessary to support the green measures to be implemented.
- Energy Documentation**  
 Energy documentation complying with the requirements of the California Energy Code is required for new buildings, additions and remodeled areas where the building or site contains lighting, water heating or space conditioning systems. HVAC sizing calculations are required for new HVAC systems.
- Structural Calculations**  
 Structural calculations, prepared by a licensed engineer or architect, are required for all structures or portions thereof which do not comply with the conventional construction provisions of Chapter 23 of the California Building Code or the structural requirements of the California Residential Code, whichever is applicable.

- Truss Design Documentation**  
 Structural calculations, prepared by a licensed engineer or architect, are required when trusses are proposed.
  
- Soils & Geological Investigation**  
**Required for most new buildings and for certain building additions with a footprint of 500 square feet or more.** See the Informational Handout, "When is a Soils Investigation Required?" on the City's web site at <https://www.sonomacity.org/helpful-information> for exceptions and more information regarding soils investigations.
  
- Flood Elevation Certificate**  
**Required if an addition or new building is proposed for a parcel adjacent to a creek or within the 100-year flood boundary.** Flood Elevation Certificate forms are available at City Hall or on FEMA's web site at <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/160> .
  
- Letter of Verification of Grading Elevation**  
 Required from a licensed engineer when an engineered grading plan has been developed (*usually for new subdivisions*) following establishment of the rough building pad grade for the project. This letter verifies that the design grade has been established and the construction of the structure or improvements is ready to proceed.
  
- Letter of Verification of Soil Compaction**  
 Required from a licensed geotechnical engineer when recommendations in the soils report for the project require soil compaction. This letter verifies that the design compaction for the project has been established and the construction of the structure or improvement is ready to proceed.
  
- Statement of Special Inspections**  
 This form is required when special inspection by an independent company is required pursuant to Chapter 17 of the California Building Code. The form must be completed and signed by the engineer or architect, the contractor and the owner. The purpose of the form is to inform all parties concerned of the requirements for special inspections. Special inspections are not performed by the Building Department. The Statement of Special Inspection form is available on the City's web site at <https://www.sonomacity.org/building-forms>.
  
- Equipment Submittal Documentation**  
 Required for specialized equipment or products such as commercial kitchen equipment, unique products, industrial equipment, etc. Specifies manufacturer's listed clearance and installation requirements.
  
- Special Systems Documentation and Detailing**  
 Manufacturer's installation instructions and detailing for specialized equipment, commercial cooking equipment and for impervious moisture barrier systems where balconies or other elevated walking surfaces have weather-exposed surfaces, and the structural framing is protected by an impervious moisture barrier.
  
- Exterior Wall Envelope Documentation and Detailing**  
 Documentation for the exterior wall envelope that provides details of the exterior wall envelope, fire-resistive construction, flashing, intersections with dissimilar materials, corners, end details, control joints, intersections at roof, eaves or parapets, means of drainage, water-resistive barrier and details around openings.
  
- Noncompliant Existing Plumbing Fixture Declaration**  
**Required for additions, alterations and improvements.** Permits issued solely for repairs or maintenance are not subject to these requirements unless the repairs include the replacement of a noncompliant plumbing fixture. The Noncompliant Existing Plumbing Fixtures declaration form can be found on the City's web site at <https://www.sonomacity.org/building-forms>.
  
- Smoke Alarm & Carbon Monoxide Alarm Declaration**  
 Required for residential; additions, alterations and repairs when the valuation of the work exceeds \$1,000. The Smoke and CO Alarms Declaration and Certification form can be found on the City's web site at <https://www.sonomacity.org/building-forms> .

## **Permit Application Approvals from Other Agencies/Departments**

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- ❑ **City of Sonoma Planning Department**  
Permit applications are automatically routed to the City Planning Department. The Planning Department verifies compliance with the City's General Plan, Zoning, Development Guidelines, environmental impacts and project Conditions of Approval where applicable.  
Phone: (707) 938-3681 Fax: (707) 938-8775 E-Mail: [planning@sonomacity.org](mailto:planning@sonomacity.org)
- ❑ **City of Sonoma Fire Department**  
Permit applications for new construction and non-residential projects are automatically routed to the City Fire Department. The Fire Department verifies compliance with the California Fire Code and the City's automatic fire sprinkler requirements.  
Phone: (707) 996-2102 Fax: (707) 996-2868 E-Mail: [svfra@svfra.org](mailto:svfra@svfra.org)
- ❑ **City of Sonoma Water Department**  
Water connection fees must be paid prior to setting a water meter or final inspection and occupancy approval for new commercial and residential buildings, second dwelling units and for changes of use, if applicable. Contact the Water Department as soon as possible to ascertain applicable requirements.  
Phone: (707) 938-3681 Fax: (707) 938-8775
- ❑ **Public Works Department – Storm Water Compliance**  
Permit applications associated with soil disturbing activities will be routed to the City's Environmental Compliance Analyst. The Environmental Compliance Analyst will verify that the project design meets the requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Stormwater Permit.  
Phone: (707) 938-3332 E-Mail: [publicworks@sonomacity.org](mailto:publicworks@sonomacity.org)
- ❑ **Public Works Department – City Engineer**  
Permit applications associated with subdivision grading and improvements, new or altered storm drainage discharging into or on the public storm drain system or into creeks, encroachments in the public right-of-way, automotive facilities, food preparation facilities (*for water use calculations*) and new or altered commercial underground fire sprinkler supply lines will be routed to the City Engineer for review and approval.  
Phone: (707) 938-3332 E-Mail: [publicworks@sonomacity.org](mailto:publicworks@sonomacity.org)
- ❑ **Public Improvement Agreement**  
The Public Improvement Agreement is located on page 4 of the building permit application form and is required to be signed by the property owner for all projects, except permits consisting solely of reroofing, ADA upgrades, thermal solar water heaters, solar photovoltaic electrical systems, energy storage systems, electric vehicle charging stations, or emergency standby generator installations. The agreement provides notification to the owner that public improvements such as curb, gutter, sidewalks, streets drainage and storm drainage will be required to be provided or repaired, at the owner's expense, prior to final inspection approval of the project. It is advisable to have the Public Works Department Street Supervisor review your property to determine if public improvements will be required.  
Phone: (707) 938-3681 Fax: (707) 938-8775
- ❑ **Sonoma County Environmental Health & Safety**  
Written approval is required when a project involves food-handling establishments, public swimming pools and projects served by septic systems and water wells.  
Sonoma County Environmental Health & Safety  
625 5th Street  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404  
Phone: 707-565-6565 E-Mail: [eh@sonoma-county.org](mailto:eh@sonoma-county.org)
- ❑ **Permit Sonoma (Sonoma County), Engineering & Water Resources**  
Written approval in the form of a "Permit Letter" is required for changes of use, restaurants, grease interceptors, industrial waste discharge and new buildings connected to the sanitary sewer system.  
Permit Sonoma, Engineering & Water Resources  
2550 Ventura Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
Phone: (707) 565-3628 Fax : 707-565-1103

☐ **School Impact Fee Certification**

Certifies that school impact fees have been paid to the Sonoma Valley Unified School District. School fees are assessed on new buildings and additions (excluding garages, carports and other detached accessory buildings). The fee rates are established by the School District.

Sonoma Valley Unified School District

17850 Railroad Avenue

Sonoma, CA 95476

Phone: 707-935-6000

Fax: 707-935-4276

☐ **Bay Area Air Quality Management District**

Written approval is required for demolition and asbestos abatement projects.

Bay Area Air Quality Management District

939 Ellis Street

San Francisco, CA 94109

Phone: 415-771-6000

Fax: 415-928-8560

Building Permit Submittal Checklist					
<i>Legend</i>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● - Normally Required</li> <li>○ - Required When Applicable to the Scope of Work</li> <li>NR - Not Usually Required</li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE:</b> This checklist represents common submittal requirements for various types of projects. Exceptions may apply.</p>					
New Buildings	Additions	Building Alterations	Repairs	Specific Single Item Permits	
<b>Drawings</b>					
Title Page - Description of Scope of Work, Project Design Criteria	●	●	●	●	●
Plot / Site Plan	●	●	○	○	○
Site Improvements, Grading, Drainage and Stormwater Management Plan	●	●	○	○	○
Erosion Control and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Best Management Practices	●	●	○	○	○
Foundation Plan and Footing Details	●	●	○	○	○
Floor Plan <i>[Proposed and Existing where applicable]</i>	●	●	●	○	○
Floor Framing Plan and Details	●	●	○	○	○
Ceiling Framing Plan and Details	●	●	○	○	○
Structural Framing Plan and Structural Details	●	●	○	○	○
Roof Plan	●	●	○	○	○
Roof Framing Plan and Details, Truss Layout Plan <i>[Where applicable]</i>	●	●	○	○	○
Exterior Elevations	●	●	○	○	○
Cross Sections	●	●	○	○	○
Window Schedule and Door Schedule	●	●	○	○	○
Electrical Plan, Electrical Fixture Schedule, Lighting Control Schedule, Panel Schedules, Load Calculations	●	●	○	○	○
Plumbing Plan, Plumbing Fixture Schedule	●	●	○	○	○
Mechanical Plan, Ducting Layout, Equipment Schedule, HVAC Load Calculations	●	●	○	○	○
Accessibility Route of Travel Plan, Accessibility Detail Sheets, Interior Restroom Elevations, Accessibility Notes and Specifications <i>[Multi-family and Nonresidential Projects]</i>	●	●	●	○	○
Landscaping and Irrigation Plan, Compliance Calculations for Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance	●	●	○	○	○
Schedule of Deferred Submittals <i>[Where applicable]</i>	●	○	○	○	○
Fire Sprinkler Plans (where applicable unless submitted under a separate permit)	●	○	○	○	○
Restaurant Equipment Plan and Equipment Schedule	○	○	○	NR	NR
<b>Supporting Forms and Documentation</b>					
Building Permit Application Form	●	●	●	●	●
Soils & Geological Investigation Report	●	○	○	○	○
Letter of Verification of Soil Compaction from Geotechnical Engineer	●	○	○	○	○
Letter of Verification of Grading Elevation from Civil Engineer or Land Surveyor	●	○	○	○	○
Energy Calculations, Energy Forms	●	●	●	○	○
CALGreen Checklist	●	●	●	○	○
Structural Calculations	●	●	○	○	○
Truss Design Calculations <i>[Projects using trusses]</i>	●	●	○	○	○
Statement of Special Inspections	○	○	○	○	○
Flood Elevation Certificate <i>[Projects within a flood hazard zone]</i>	●	●	○	NR	NR
Noncompliant Existing Plumbing Fixture Declaration <i>[Structures built prior to 1994]</i>	NR	●	●	NR	○
Smoke Alarm & Carbon Monoxide Alarm Declaration <i>[Residential occupancies]</i>	NR	●	●	●	●