

Mechanical FAQ's

1. Can I pull a permit as a homeowner?
 - a. Yes. Public Act 407 of 2016 states: "An individual who is the owner of a single family dwelling that is, or on completion will become, his or her place of residence may personally install a heating or refrigerating system in the dwelling if the individual in his or her application for a permit affirms that he or she is or will become the owner and occupant of the dwelling in which the installation is done is completed and that the applicant will install the equipment in the dwelling for which the permit is requested. The applicant shall apply for and secure the required permits from the enforcing agency of the municipality and shall obtain the required inspection after the installation is completed and the equipment is placed in operation."
2. When are plans required for a residential home?
 - a. When the total heating BTU input exceeds 375,000 BTU/H
3. I have a local inspector in my jurisdiction, and I disagree with his/her decision. Where can I appeal the decision to?
 - a. The authority having jurisdiction in your township or city is required by statute to have a construction board of appeals. You must contest the inspector's decision with that Board.
4. I am in State jurisdiction, and I disagree with a State Inspector's decision. Where can I appeal this decision?
 - a. You can file an appeal with the State Construction Code Commission. The form can be found here: [Construction Code Commission \(including Appeal Review Panel\) \(michigan.gov\)](http://www.constructioncodecommission.com/michigan.gov)
5. What license(s) and permits do I need in order to replace a gas water heater?
 - a. You must have a Michigan Mechanical License with either HVAC Equipment or Gas Piping and Venting classifications AND a Michigan Plumbing Contractor's License. A mechanical and a plumbing permit are required for this installation.
6. How do I handle a phased construction project for permits and inspections?
 - a. A separate permit is required for each phase in situations where occupancy will be requested at different times throughout the project.
7. When do I have to have make-up air for a kitchen hood in a residential home?
 - a. When the hood installed is CAPABLE of exceeding 400 CFM in exhaust rate.
8. Can I install a woodstove in my garage?
 - a. NO. The Michigan Mechanical Code (901.5) prohibits the installation of solid fuel appliances in garages via reference to NFPA 211.
9. I am venting my bath exhaust through my soffit. What do I need to know?
 - a. Your exhaust terminations must maintain a 3' clearance from any ventilated portion of the soffit and openings into the building.
10. My permit has expired, and I need an inspection. How can I get my permit re-opened?
 - a. Most permits that expire cannot be re-opened. A new permit would need to be secured with all equipment needing inspection listed, in order to receive an inspection.
11. Can I as a homeowner secure a permit for my propane tank?
 - a. Only if you as the homeowner, own the tank.
12. At what point in my project do I need to have a permit secured?

- a. Permits must be secured PRIOR to the start of any project.
13. When do I need plan review for my commercial/industrial/institutional project?
- a. It's easier to answer the question, "When do I NOT need plan review on my commercial/industrial/institutional project?" Plan review is not required as long as ALL of the following apply to the building in question: The building is under 3500 square feet AND is of business or mercantile occupancy type AND the building only has one fire area.
14. Can I cover my project if the inspector does not show up within 72 hours of my inspection request?
- a. NO. Any concealed work must be inspected and may not be covered until approved.
15. What licensing and permits are needed in order to install the mechanical portion of a stand-by generator?
- a. A stand-by generator is an appliance. In order to set and supply the generator with gas piping, the contractor must have a Michigan Mechanical License with an HVAC equipment classification. The permit must include the generator (G/O Burner) AND the gas piping lineal foot.