

*St. Louis County Department of Public Works  
Division of Code Enforcement*

## **When is an Electrical Permit required for Residential Projects?**

### **ELECTRICAL WORK**

An Electrical Permit is required to install, enlarge, alter, repair, remove, convert, or replace equipment, panels, material, wiring, fixtures or any other component of an electrical system.

Some examples of typical residential electrical projects that require an Electrical Permit are: new house construction, enlarging or renovating a house, remodeling kitchens or bathrooms, finishing basements, replacing the service entrance, replacing/enlarging distribution/breaker panels, adding new circuits, adding new wiring/fixtures to existing circuits, installing a swimming pool, installing electric to an accessory structure, etc. Refer to the Residential Brochures on our website ([www.stlouisco.com/pubworks](http://www.stlouisco.com/pubworks)) for additional information on permit requirements.

Residential building projects within unincorporated county & contracting municipalities that include electrical work are issued as an Integrated Building Permit (one permit for the entire job). Electrical work must be done by a licensed electrical contractor or qualifying homeowner.

The following types of work are considered ordinary repairs or minor work for which an Electrical Permit will not be required:

1. Replacing defective fuses, switches, receptacles, light fixtures and changing/replacing existing receptacles with GFCI type receptacles within existing pre-wired boxes (Reconfiguring kitchen cabinet & bathroom layouts will likely trigger code required changes to electrical receptacle locations and associated new wiring. An electrical permit is required to install new wiring);
2. Replacing defective garbage disposals, dishwashers, kitchen & bathroom exhaust fans like-for-like in the same location provided they can be connected to existing wiring without modifications;
3. Installing a ceiling fan at an existing light outlet location provided the existing box is replaced by an approved box for fan installations and is securely anchored to the ceiling framing above. (Note: New wiring requires an electrical permit.);
4. Installing a low voltage communication system, security/alarm system, or other low voltage wiring within existing one & two family dwellings;
5. Installing or replacing landscape lighting plugged into an existing approved exterior outlet or powered by the sun.