

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

## **When is a Mechanical Permit required for Residential Projects?**

### **MECHANICAL WORK**

A Mechanical Permit is required to install, enlarge, alter, repair, remove, convert, or replace equipment, ductwork, or any other component of a mechanical system.

Some examples of typical residential mechanical projects that require a Mechanical Permit are: new house construction, installing/replacing heating & air conditioning equipment associated with enlarging or renovating a house or finishing basements, replacing existing furnaces and/or air conditioning units, adding new ductwork, replacing or rerouting ductwork, installing kitchen hoods &/or fans associated with remodeling kitchens, installing pre-fab fireplaces, gas logs &/or gas log lighters, installing wood burning stoves, installing outdoor gas grills or gas lights, installing/replacing gas piping, 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 mechanical work are issued as an Integrated Building Permit (one permit for the entire job). Mechanical work must be done by a licensed or registered financially responsible contractor or qualifying homeowner.

The following types of work shall be considered as ordinary repairs or minor work for which a Mechanical Permit will not be required:

1. Installing, replacing, or repairing portable heating appliances, portable ventilation appliances and equipment, portable cooling units, portable evaporative coolers, and portable fuel cell appliances that are not connected to a fixed piping system and are not interconnected to a power grid;
2. Replacing or repairing steam, hot water or chilled water piping within any heating or cooling equipment or appliance;
3. Replacement of any minor part that does not alter the approval of equipment or an appliance or make such equipment or appliance unsafe;
4. Installing, replacing, or repairing self-contained refrigeration systems that contain 10 pound (4.5 kg) or less of refrigerant, or that are actuated by motors of 1 horsepower (0.75 kw) or less.
5. Ordinary repairs for the purpose of maintenance and service. This includes items such as the repair or replacement of any minor part of a piece of equipment that does not alter the approval of the equipment, the replacement of piping within heating or cooling equipment, replacement of leading or defective valves, fittings or connections of system components, changing of belts, parts, filters and lubrication of equipment, recharging, testing and

balancing of equipment and similar service work. (Note: All other repairs and replacements to mechanical systems and equipment requires a permit);

6. Replacing existing residential kitchen hoods, kitchen & bathroom exhaust fans and associated ductwork provided they are of the same nominal capacity, same type and in same location. (Note: A permit is required for new installations of residential kitchen hoods and kitchen & bath exhaust fans including associated ductwork.);
7. Replacing like-for-like decorative gas log appliances (within existing masonry fireplaces or pre-fab fireplaces listed for gas log inserts), gas-fired lighters, and permanent residential outside gas grills, outdoor gaslights, and similar gas appliances. (Note: A permit is required for new installation of these kind of gas appliances and associated gas supply lines);
8. Replacing floor register and wall & ceiling diffuser covers;
9. Replacing vent connectors (Note: A permit is required to replace the flue);
10. Replacing dryer exhaust piping in the same location.