



While indoors, curled up next to the fire sipping hot chocolate as the snowflakes fall, start planning your 2018 construction project. Planning ahead will put your home improvement project on the fast track this spring.

After having a rough idea of your improvement project, stop by or call the Fairmont Building Department. They will guide you through the preconstruction phase and permit process to ensure your project complies with local and state building codes.

What Improvements Require a Permit?

Most home improvements require some type of permitting, with the exception of painting projects and the replacement of cabinetry, floor coverings and wallpaper (no permit is needed for such cosmetic changes). In addition to new home construction, permit and inspection approvals are required for the following projects:

Building Permits

- Additions to dwellings, garages and other out buildings
- Three season or screen porches
- Open decks over 30" above grade
- Structural repairs: replacement decking, stairs, handrails, guardrails, etc.
- Garages and carports
- Storage buildings in excess of 200 square feet
- Remodeling, moving or installing walls and finishing off basements
- Reroofing
- Replacement of windows or siding

Zoning Permits

- Fences
- Signs
- Free standing open decks, if under 30" above grade
- Storage buildings less than 200 square feet
- Stairs to a lake (landings under 32 square feet)
- Demolition

Plumbing/Mechanical Permits

- Installation or changes made to plumbing, heating, ventilating or air conditioning systems
- Installation or changes made to fireplaces, wood stoves or other solid fuel burning appliances

Curb Cut Permit

- Installation of a driveway involving cutting of a curb
- Change to the existing curb cut



The City of Fairmont adopts the Minnesota State Building Codes, viewable at <http://www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/Codes.asp>

What About Electrical Projects and Permits?

Electrical installations or changes to electrical systems are inspected by the State Electrical Inspector, Jesse Hendrickson. Contact Inspector Hendrickson directly at (507) 370-1766.

What are the benefits of having a permit?

Your home is an investment. If your construction project does not comply with the codes adopted by the City of Fairmont, the value of your investment could be reduced.

Property insurers may not cover work performed without permits and inspections. If you decide to sell a home or building that has had modifications without a permit, you will be required to apply for a permit for the work that was done without a permit, submit plans, pay the permit fees, and expose the work for the required inspections.

A property owner who can prove that code requirements were strictly and consistently met - as demonstrated by the City of Fairmont's carefully maintained records - has a strong ally if something happens to trigger a potential lawsuit.

Your permit also allows the code official to protect the public by reducing the potential hazards of unsafe construction and ensuring public health, safety, and welfare. By following code guidelines, your completed project will meet minimum standards of safety and will be less likely to cause injury to you, your family, your friends, or future owners.

Fairmont Building Department...

offers services that provide minimum standards to safeguard life, health, property and public welfare by being responsible for the application and enforcement of the Minnesota State Building Codes and related City Ordinances regulating construction, alterations and the use of buildings within city limits.

Building Officials

Doug Harstad 507.238.3947
 Terry Tonneson 507.238.3931



Fire Safety During the Holidays

As we prepare for the holidays, it's a good time to also think about fire safety. Follow these simple safety recommendations to reduce the chance of fire in your home.

If your Christmas tree is freshly cut, water it often. A dried out Christmas tree can engulf a house in less than a minute. If the needles are falling off the tree, then it's time to relocate the tree outside of your home.

Space heaters should be at least 3 feet away from combustible materials. Make sure space heaters are turned off when you leave your home and before going to bed.

Never use a range or an oven as a supplemental heating device. Not only is it a safety hazard, it can be a source of potentially toxic fumes.

Matches and lighters should be stored out of children's sight and reach. Each year thousands of fires are started and injuries are sustained from children playing with matches or lighters.

Your home should have working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors where required. Check the batteries and clean the detectors on a monthly basis.

If a fire hydrant is located near your home, please assist the fire department by keeping the hydrant area clear of snow so in the event it is needed, it can be easily located.

Please have a safe and joyful holiday season. If you have any questions concerning fire safety, please contact City Hall at 507-238-9461.



City Council

Meets 2nd & 4th Mondays at 5:30 pm
 City Hall Council Chambers

Debbie Foster	235-5826	Mayor
Tom Hawkins	238-3678	Council Member At-Large
Bruce Peters	238-4507	Ward 1
Ruth Cyphers	236-2710	Ward 2
Jim Zarling	238-9303	Ward 3
Wayne Hasek	399-9292	Ward 4

City Hall

Office hours Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
 100 Downtown Plaza, Fairmont

Mike Humpal	238-3936	City Administrator
Elizabeth Bloomquist	238-3939	City Attorney
Paul Hoyer	238-3934	Finance Director
Patty Monsen	238-3935	City Clerk
Troy Nemmers	238-3942	Public Works Director/City Engineer