



## Rural Building & Development Permits

Washington County, 222 West Main Street, Washington, IA 52353

Phone: (319) 653-7717 Fax: (319) 653-7788

Website: <http://co.washington.ia.us/departments/planning>

**When considering new building and development projects in the unincorporated areas of Washington County the following list is provided to assist property owners in contacting the proper department or agency that is responsible for issuance or approval of permits or other applications:**

- ZONING PERMITS – Washington County’s former Zoning Ordinance was rescinded in 2013, therefore a county zoning permit is **not required** for any uses or building projects in the unincorporated areas.
- FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT PERMIT – Application for a Floodplain Development Permit must be made prior to starting any project that is located in the 100-Year Floodplain. The projects include any man-made change to improved and unimproved real estate, including but not limited to buildings, additions, sheds or other structures, mining, filling, grading, paving, excavation, drilling and placement of mobile homes. Contact the **Floodplain Administrator** at (319) 653-7782 for further information.
- BUILDING PERMITS – Washington County has not adopted any building codes and therefore a county building permit is not required for building projects located in the unincorporated areas. However, other permits may be required for certain projects. See STATE OF IOWA PERMITS and EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION below.
- STATE OF IOWA PERMITS – The State enforces Statute 103 and requires inspections of all new electrical work done within the county. Electrical contractors are required to be state licensed. For further information contact the **Iowa State Fire Marshall Division** at (515) 725-6145 or your local state-licensed electrical contractor.
- EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION – If your project is located within two miles of an incorporated City you should contact the City to determine if they enforce any building or zoning codes and require building permits in your rural location prior to starting any new construction or remodel.
- DRIVEWAY ENTRANCE PERMIT – If your project requires a new driveway entrance, contact the appropriate agency prior to firming up your plans and doing any work associated with the entrance:
  - COUNTY ROAD: Contact the **County Engineer’s Office** (319) 653-7731
  - STATE HWY: Contact the **Iowa Department of Transportation** (641) 683-3331
- WELL / SEPTIC SYSTEM PERMIT – If your building project requires a new well, new or additional septic treatment, contact the **County Environmental Department** (319) 653-7782 prior to firming up your plans or doing any work associated with the well or onsite septic system.
- 911 ADDRESS – If the location of your proposed new home or building doesn’t have a 911 address sign contact the **County Safety Center** (319) 653-2107 to obtain the Address Application.