

Electrical work is defined by the NYC Electrical Code as “the installation, alteration, maintenance or repair of any electric wires and wiring apparatus and other appliances used or to be used for the transmission of electricity for light, heat, power, signaling, communication, alarm or data transmission.” For example, changing a lightbulb is not considered electrical work, but changing the light switch or fixture is. The Electrical Code was enacted to establish standards to protect both the public and property in the City of New York.

▶ **Electrical license and permit requirements**

Electricians must be licensed by the Department of Buildings in order to perform electrical work in New York City.

An electrical permit is required for most electrical work, including handling of electrical wires that is performed in a residential home or business.

The Department of Buildings’ Electrical Division issues electrical permits. Upon receipt of a properly completed application, permits are typically issued within five business days.

▶ **To verify an electrician’s license**

To verify that the electrician you are planning to hire is licensed, call the Department’s Licensing Division at 212-566-4100 or log on to the Department’s website at NYC.gov/buildings.

▶ **Application and permit fees**

Application fees are subject to change. Contact the Electrical Division at 212-566-5149 for information regarding current application fees, or log on to NYC.gov/buildings.

Permit fees are based on the scope of the proposed work. Refer to the fee schedule printed on the back of the permit application.

▶ **Consequences of working without a permit**

If electrical work is performed without a permit, the owner of the building, as well as the individual who performed the illegal work, may be subject to violations, summonses, court appearances and fines. Furthermore, an unlicensed electrical contractor who performed the work may be fined for working without a license.

To resolve electrical violations, you must hire a licensed electrician to file an application with the Department and correct the violation.

To report work that is performed without a permit, call 311.

To report unprofessional conduct by a licensed electrician, call our Investigations Unit at 212-825-3631.

▶ **NYC Adopts National Electrical Code**

In 2003, the City adopted the 2002 National Electrical Code (NEC)—a recognized industry standard with local amendments that adapt it to the unique conditions found in New York City.

The new electrical code incorporates technological advances that have occurred since the 1960s, including low voltage systems, fiber optics, digital control systems, and solar and fuel cell technologies. These will enhance efficiency and speed to the approval process for jobs involving these systems. The new code is updated on a tri-annual basis.

This brochure provides general guidelines. If you have specific questions, call the Department of Buildings’ Electrical Division at 212-566-4988 or your licensed electrician.

Checklist

- If you are not sure if the work you intend to do requires an electrical permit, call the Electrical Division at 212-566-3812.
- Hire a New York City licensed electrician for work that requires an electrical work permit.

To find a licensed electrician, contact the New York Electrical Contractors Association at 212-481-0530. Also, you may log on to NYC.gov/buildings to see if an electrician is licensed.
- Have your licensed electrician complete and submit to the Department an application for a Certificate of Electrical Inspection.

The licensed electrician performing the work must sign all electrical applications. In addition to the licensee's signature any electrical application which is filed for work that is relative to a new or amended Certificate of Occupancy (CO), the owner or the owner's authorized representative must sign. Also, any application which requires an electric meter or an outage or requests to energize a service, requires the signature of the owner.
- Upon proper completion, the application will be entered into the Department's central computer database, and given a control number. A permit will then be mailed to the licensed electrician.

If the application is not completed properly, it will be returned by mail to the electrician with an attached form itemizing the errors.
- When the electrical work is completed, the electrician must contact the Department's Electrical Division and schedule an appointment for an inspection.

If the work complies with the NYC Electrical Code, the inspector will approve the application. Once the property owner pays all applicable fees, a Certificate of Electrical Inspection is mailed to the licensed electrician.

To ensure that the work was completed properly and inspected by the Department, ask your licensed electrician for a copy of the Certificate of Electrical Inspection.

New York City Department of Buildings

Executive Offices / 212-566-5000
280 Broadway, New York, NY 10007

Manhattan Borough Office / 212-566-0042
280 Broadway, New York, NY 10007

Bronx Borough Office / 718-579-6920
1932 Arthur Avenue, Bronx, NY 10457

Brooklyn Borough Office / 718-802-3675
210 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY 11202

Queens Borough Office / 718-286-0600
120-55 Queens Boulevard, Kew Gardens, NY 11424

Staten Island Borough Office / 718-816-2300
10 Richmond Terrace, Borough Hall, Staten Island, NY 10301

Department of Investigation / 212-825-3631
80 Maiden Lane, New York, NY 10038

Call 311 for non-emergency complaints or information for Building Department services.
Use 911 only for life threatening emergencies.

Visit NYC.gov/buildings to:

- Access comprehensive information about the Department
- Check the status of a filing on the Building Information System (BIS)
- Download plan/work approval forms and the Building Code

Mission

The NYC Department of Buildings ensures the safe and lawful use of buildings and properties by enforcing the Building Code and Zoning Resolution. We facilitate development with integrity, efficiency and professionalism.

Michael R. Bloomberg, MAYOR

Patricia J. Lancaster, FAIA, COMMISSIONER



about

Electrical Permits



**BUILDING
KNOWLEDGE**