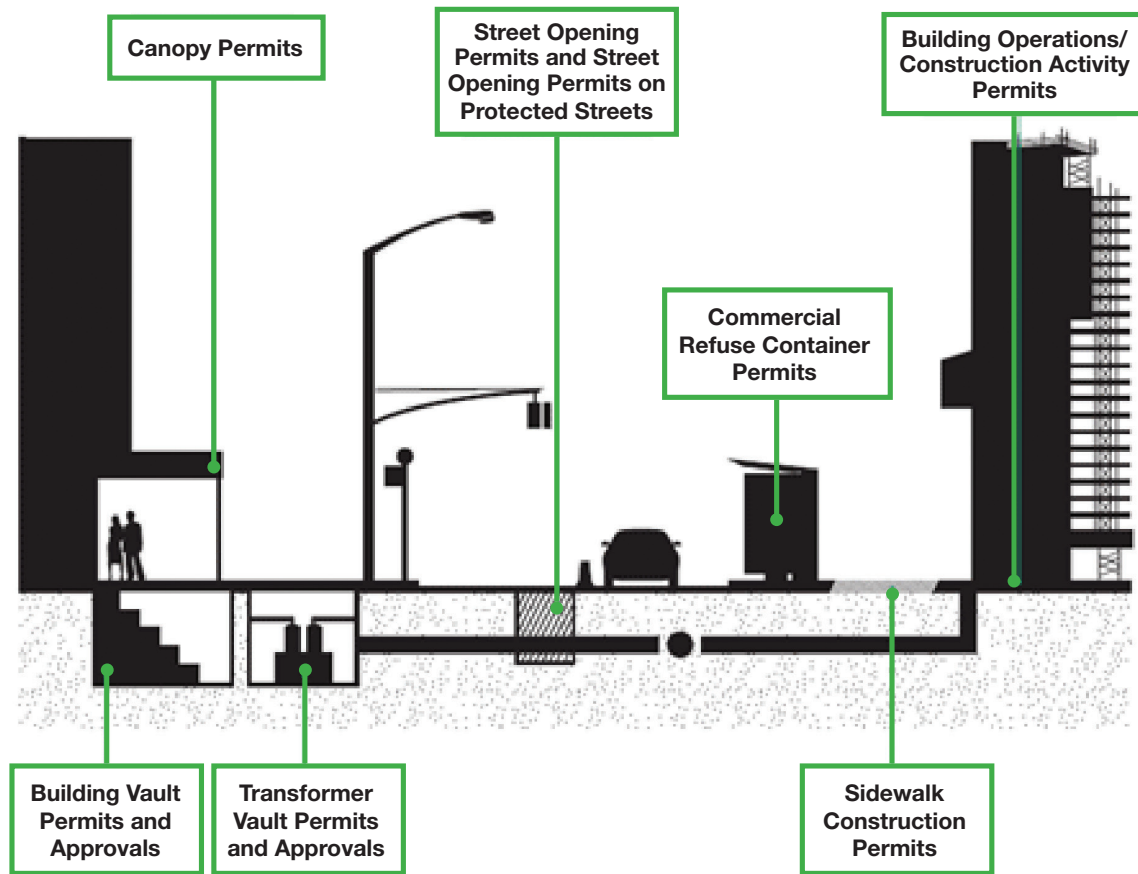




## What Types of Permits Can I Get from DOT?



### Street Opening Permits and Street Opening Permits on Protected Streets

This category of permits applies to any work that DOT's Permit Office believes would compromise the street surface, including, but not limited to, street openings, excavations, or other work in a street that may cause damage to the street surface. To learn more about Protected Streets in general, please visit <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/infrastructure/protectedst.shtml>

Street Opening Permits are generally taken out by entities that need access to subsurface infrastructure, including utility companies and contractors (such as licensed master plumbers). To learn more about how to become a registered permittee, please visit <http://streetworksmannual.nyc/chapter-three/permittee-registration-process>.

### Building Operations/Construction Activity Permits

This category of permits applies to construction-related activities that take place within the street and are generally associated with construction work adjacent to the street. Typically, a valid permit issued by the New York City Department of Buildings (DOB) is required prior to application for permits in this category. Some of the construction-related activities covered in this category include placement of materials, equipment, and temporary structures on the street or sidewalk (for example, building materials, cranes, boom trucks, a shanty or trailer, construction container, security structure, tool cart, or construction parking regulation signs), or movement of construction equipment across roadways and sidewalks.

This category also covers installations above the street (such as banners and decorative lights) and permanent installations on the street (such as bike racks). Building Operations/Construction Activity Permits are generally taken out by entities that perform construction activities, including developers and contractors.

### **Sidewalk Construction Permits**

This category of permits applies to any sidewalk repairs, sidewalk replacements, or new sidewalk installations. Sidewalk Construction Permits are generally taken out by entities that need to perform work on sidewalks, including developers, contractors, and private homeowners (for sidewalk repairs and only if performing the work themselves).

### **Canopy Authorizations and Permits**

This category of permits applies to authorizations and permits required to place a canopy over the sidewalk. A one-time Street Opening Permit must also be obtained to install the poles that support the canopy. Canopy permits are generally taken out by building owners, business owners, and canopy installers.

### **Commercial Refuse Container Permits**

Commercial refuse container permits are required to temporarily place a container on a city street for such uses as household clean-ups or remodeling projects. Such permits are not required in two situations: (1) when a separate DOB permit is required for construction activity, or (2) when a DOT construction activity permit is required.

### **Building Vault and Transformer Vault Permits and Approvals**

A building vault is any opening below the surface of the street that projects outside of the property line and is covered over. Such opening below the surface of the street may be used, for example, for storage. There are, however, four exceptions to this definition: if the opening (1) is used exclusively to access, by means of steps, the cellar or basement of any building; (2) is used primarily for light and ventilation; (3) is constructed or maintained by utility companies (including transformer vaults); or (4) is part of the subways, railroads, and related structures.

A transformer vault is a subsurface structure or room that houses electrical transformers and appurtenant (that is, accompanying or related) equipment. Transformer vaults are typically installed, owned, and maintained by an electric utility company. The city has agreements with electric utility companies that allow them to occupy and use city property for transformer vaults. The construction, alteration, or repair of any building vault or transformer vault requires a permit from NYC DOT. Most vault work also requires plan approval and a permit from DOB. In some cases, approval from the Landmarks Preservation Commission (if the vault is in an historic district) or the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (if the vault is near a subway or tunnel entrance) is required. To construct a new building vault or enlarge an existing building vault, a vault license from NYC DOT's Office of Franchises, Concessions and Revocable Consents is required.

**Requirements for DOT permits are contained in DOT's  
*Highway Rules* at at:**

[www.nyc.gov/html/dot/downloads/pdf/hwyrules.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/downloads/pdf/hwyrules.pdf)

**For more information visit:**

[www.streetworksmannual.nyc/](http://www.streetworksmannual.nyc/)