



COVID-19 Building Department Policy

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the following policies will be adhered to by the Teton County, Idaho Building Department until the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Order to Self-Isolate dated March 25, 2020 (IDHW Order) has ended.

1. New building permit applications may be submitted in digital formats only (instructions are available on the Building Department page of Teton County's website). All new and existing applications will be processed to the best of the Department's ability given closures and modified schedules of the Department & other agencies.
2. Applications will be approved when all requirements have been met but no new construction, other than that listed in paragraph 3, will be authorized or allowed to begin until the IDHW Order is lifted.
3. New permits for work that is necessary to repair or maintain residences and businesses in an emergency situation will be issued to allow work to commence immediately. These permits and the work associated with them must comply with all regular department policies, procedures and requirements.
 - a. For the purposes of this policy, necessary repairs are construction or repairs that are necessary to ensure that a residence is safe, sanitary and habitable. Examples are failure of the heating system, roof collapse or structural damage to any part of the structure .
4. Routine maintenance and repair, that is not currently permitted, is not considered necessary and shall wait until restrictions have been lifted. (As stated in item 1 above, the application process may be initiated at any time.)
 - a. For the purposes of this policy, routine maintenance and repair are projects that are routine in maintaining a household or property such as deck repairs, upgrades to HVAC when the system is currently still functional, additions and remodels that are not necessary as defined in 3-a above.
5. All construction sites must comply with social distancing requirements outlined in the IDHW Order as well as the following:
 - a. Staggering subcontractors in a way that will allow only one trade at a time and limit the amount of workers to 5 or fewer;
 - b. Anyone that feels sick must not be allowed on any job site. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow and avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with your hands. Face masks are strongly encouraged.
 - c. Provide handwashing stations, hand sanitizer and/or sanitizing wipes to all workers on site
 - d. Wash or wipe down communal tools after each use & disinfect the entire job site on a regular basis (a minimum of 3 times per day or as each contractor leaves the site).
 - e. Clean shared spaces such as trailers and break/lunchrooms at least once per day.
 - f. Trash, with the exception of construction debris, shall be bagged and removed from the site every day and disposed of appropriately.

- g. Every job site shall have signage in English and Spanish explaining basic COVID-19 Infection Prevention Measures.
6. Inspections will be performed remotely using Facetime, Skype, Zoom or any other platform that allows the contractor in charge or property owner to be on site and communicate with the inspector remotely. Other items such as specific photographs or documentation may be required by the inspector at their discretion.
 7. No onsite inspections will be performed unless deemed necessary by the department manager. If an inspector must perform an inspection in person, the following requirements (and others that may be warranted based on individual circumstances) must be met.
 - a. The contractor must let the inspector know the last time anyone was on the job site. The inspection will be scheduled at least 12 hours from that time.
 - b. There will be no one else present on the job site when the inspector is there. (Exceptions may be made if the inspection is inside a residence that is lived in such as a mechanical inspection for a gas line or furnace repair.)
 - c. It is the responsibility of the contractor, homeowner, owner's agent or other person in charge to ensure that ALL social distancing requirements are and have been met at the site.
 - d. If the inspector arrives onsite and, for any reason, does not feel safe or comfortable entering the premises, we reserve the right to leave and then contact the owner or contractor.
 8. Department staff will still be available via phone, email, and/or text though responses may take longer.
 9. Any violation of this policy will result in a Stop Work Order being issued for the permit as per the International Residential Code, Section R114 as adopted by Teton County Title 6. Authorization to resume work will only be given by the department manager when corrective actions have been taken to bring the site back into compliance, or, when IDHW Order has ended and regular department procedures resume.
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