



BUILDING INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT  
PO BOX 950, 209 SEMINARY ST.  
KENANSVILLE, NC 28349  
PHONE: (910) 296-2124 FAX: (910) 296-2166  
EMAIL: [INSPECTIONS@DUPLINCOUNTYNC.COM](mailto:INSPECTIONS@DUPLINCOUNTYNC.COM)

## **“DO IT YOURSELF” CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

Some homeowners have the expertise to replace appliances and make household repairs, even build decks and add on rooms. However, most people hire professional contractors to do the work. Everyone wants a job done well at a reasonable price. With that in mind, the Duplin County Inspections Department has advice for anyone contracting to have work done on their home.

### **Before Starting**

#### **Know what you want done.**

Have a plan, research alternatives, and establish a budget and schedule that works for you.

#### **Know your contractor**

Do your research. Shop around and get several estimates. Ask for references and talk with them to determine how satisfied they were with the contractor's work.

Where applicable, ensure that the person you hire has the required N.C. Contractor's License. Licensed contractors are professionals who have passed technical exams and have proven that they have the financial means to support their business. With a licensed contractor, you may have more options and recourse if problems arise.

### **Contractor Licensing**

State law requires licenses for these types of contractors doing work anywhere in the state:

- All electrical, plumbing, and heating and air conditioning contractors
- General contractors for projects costing more than \$30,000
- (Subcontractors for electrical, plumbing, and heating and air conditioning must have licenses regardless of the cost of their work.)
- General contractors for projects under \$30,000 are not required to have a license. Homeowners who use an unlicensed general contractor must hire the subcontractors themselves when electrical, plumbing, or heating and air conditioning work is involved.

### **Ensuring Your Contractor Has a License if Required**

Ask those performing work to provide their N.C. Contractor's License number and verify it through these state licensing boards:

- General Contractors
- Electrical Contractors
- Plumbing & Mechanical Contractors

### **Why it is a Good Idea to Hire Licensed Contractors**

N.C. licensed contractors are professionals who have passed technical exams and have proven that they have the financial means to support their business.

Should you experience a substantial problem with a licensed contractor, the Licensing Board for that trade will investigate the complaint and if found valid, take appropriate action against the contractor.

### **Obtain the proper permits**

While a contractor can act as a homeowner's agent and pick up the necessary permits, it is the homeowner's responsibility to make sure that the appropriate permits are obtained. Please Remember: You should never pay contractors in full until the job is complete, all inspections have been approved and you are satisfied with the work.

### **During -Schedule required inspections**

Inspections scheduled before 5 p.m. will normally be performed the following workday. The Duplin County Building Inspections will look over the work as often as necessary to ensure that it complies with state & local ordinances and terms of the permit. (910)296-2124