Building Permits may be issued to either the property owner or a licensed & identified contractor. Electrical & HVAC permits may be issued to either the property owner for their primary residence or a licensed and identified contractor. Search for contractors that are properly identified with the department here: http://portal.louisvilleky.gov/codesandregs/contract or-report

Permits ARE required for:

- New Buildings & Additions
- Parking Lots
- Interior Renovations involving changes to walls, structural elements, egress pathways
- Change of Use
- Demolition of buildings and accessory structures
- Electrical systems - new wiring, panel boxes, new hardwired light fixtures, etc.
- Heating/Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems - furnaces, air condition units, replacement units, prefab fireplaces, boilers, range hoods, etc.
- Plumbing systems – water service, waste lines, water heaters, new bathrooms, etc.
- Accessibility Signage
- Fire Detection,
- Fire Suppression

Zoning Considerations:

- Use – confirm zoning classification of property and allowed
- Uses – Chapter 3 of Land Development Code
- Parking – Chapter 9
- Landscaping – Chapter 10
- Building Setbacks – Chapter 5
- Building Design Requirements – Chapter 5
- Signage – Chapter 8

The Land Development Code can be found on the website of Planning & Design Services: http://www.louisvilleky.gov/PlanningDesign/

Other Approvals

A building permit evaluates a project for conformance with the Kentucky Building Codes. In Louisville Metro there are additional regulations that may apply to your project.

Preservation Districts and Overlays

Projects in the local Preservation Districts and Overlays require review and approval prior to issuance of a building permit. Contact Planning & Design Services for information regarding Preservation Districts and Overlays.

Utility Easements

Your property may contain utility easements which may prohibit construction. Confirm the existence of any easements as you plan your project.

Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD)

MSD has requirements regarding flood plain, sewer connections, storm drainage, & erosion control.
Small Cities
Smaller cities within Louisville may require review of projects within their city limits. Be sure to check for such requirements as you plan your project.

Forms & Fees Application Forms are available in our offices or online at: https://louisvilleky.gov/government/get-permit

A submittal should include a completed application form and drawings to explain the project. Refer to the residential checklist: https://louisvilleky.gov/sites/default/files/construction_review/construction_review/residential_checklist.pdf

Fees are noted on the application forms and posted on our website at: https://louisvilleky.gov/government/construction-review/permits-licensing

Plumbing Permits are obtained from the State Department of Housing, Buildings, & Construction Division of Plumbing. Their forms, regulations, and contact information can be found on their website: http://dhbc.ky.gov/Plb/Pages/default.aspx.

Inspections
All permits require inspections by our department to ensure that all applicable code requirements have been met and that the project has been constructed according to the approved plans. The number of inspections varies according to each project but generally occur at foundation stage, framing or “rough-in” stage, and a final inspection. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to notify the department when the work is ready for inspection.