

Permit Central

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Applying for a Permit, License, Certification or Registration from DHEC

Sound, responsible public health and environmental decisions go hand-in-hand with strong, successful businesses. If your new business or expansion could have an impact on public health or the environment in South Carolina, chances are, you'll need a permit from DHEC. You may actually need several permits, licenses or registrations before starting or expanding your business. If you're required by law to get one or more permits, you'll need some of those permits well before you disturb land for construction.

Talk with DHEC early about your business plans. We can help you develop a coordinated roadmap and realistic schedule.

We want to work closely with you to help you through the permitting process as quickly as possible.

Healthcare Providers, Private Citizens Needing Permits

- If you are a healthcare provider, see additional (non-construction-related) regulatory requirements by visiting our [Healthcare Regulations website](#).
- If you are an individual (rather than a business) and you need a permit from DHEC to build a dock, private well, septic tank, pond, coastal home, etc., visit our [Citizen \(Non-Business\) Permits Issued by DHEC](#) page.



Use our interactive tool to find out which permits you'll need.



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Which Permit(s) Do I Need?


Not sure which permit(s) or license(s) you'll need for your new business, new equipment, or business expansion/renovation project?

Answer this series of simple yes/no questions* to learn:

- Which permits you may need for your project or new business**
- Phone numbers and email addresses you can use to contact DHEC staff directly
- Links to more detailed information about individual permit requirements.

Looking for Information on Healthcare Licensing or Non-Business (Citizen) Permits?

- Healthcare providers, our interactive questionnaire provides information on the permits you'll need to construct or renovate your facility. But the questionnaire does not yet include information on other healthcare regulatory requirements. To get a complete picture of all the regulatory requirements you will need to meet, visit our [Healthcare Facilities CON and Licensing website](#).
- If you are an individual (rather than a business) and you need a permit from DHEC (to build a dock, install a well, etc.), visit our webpage on [Citizen \(Non Business\) Activities that May Require a DHEC Permit](#).



Continue

Note: We do not retain any personal or project information from the answers you give.
 *Some of the questions will not apply to your situation.
 **The information is provided as a courtesy to familiarize customers with general permitting requirements and is not legal advice. The statutes, rules and regulations always control. The information is subject to change. It is the responsibility of the customer to verify current permit requirements prior to beginning any project. Permits may also be required by other state, local or federal entities.

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Your Planning List

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You answered **"Yes"** to the question:
Will you be renovating or demolishing all or parts of a building (such as removing flooring, roofing, insulation or heat-resistant materials)? Or will you need any of the following services to get your building in shape:

- *Mold remediation*
- *Water or fire restoration*
- *Building upfits*
- *Interior/exterior building facelift*

- Anytime you renovate or demolish an existing building, treat for mold or restore a fire- or water-damaged structure, you're usually required to first check for the presence of asbestos and then make sure your contractor obtains a **demolition license** or **asbestos abatement license**.
- Visit DHEC's [asbestos Web page](#) to learn what you need to do. You can also [email Robin Mack](mailto:macks@dhc.sc.gov) (macks@dhc.sc.gov) or call her at (803) 898-4289 for more information.
- [Download the Demolition License Application.](http://www.scdhec.gov/administration/library/d-3428.pdf) (http://www.scdhec.gov/administration/library/d-3428.pdf)
- [Download the Asbestos Abatement License Application.](http://www.scdhec.gov/administration/library/d-3428.pdf) (http://www.scdhec.gov/administration/library/d-3428.pdf)



How Long Will the Permitting Process Take?

This is a tough question to answer with complete certainty.

The permitting process timeline is influenced by many factors including:

- The quality of the application you submit. Many of the applications we receive are incomplete. This always triggers a request from us for additional information. The request and response cycle, which may occur several times in a given permit application process, can add days and even months to the overall time it takes to issue a permit decision. Submitting an incomplete application package does not secure your place in line, so to speak.
- The simplicity or complexity of the project, activity or business being permitted
- Community concerns about the project, activity or business
- Location in an environmentally sensitive area
- DHEC staffing levels
- The number of permit applications we receive in a given period of time.

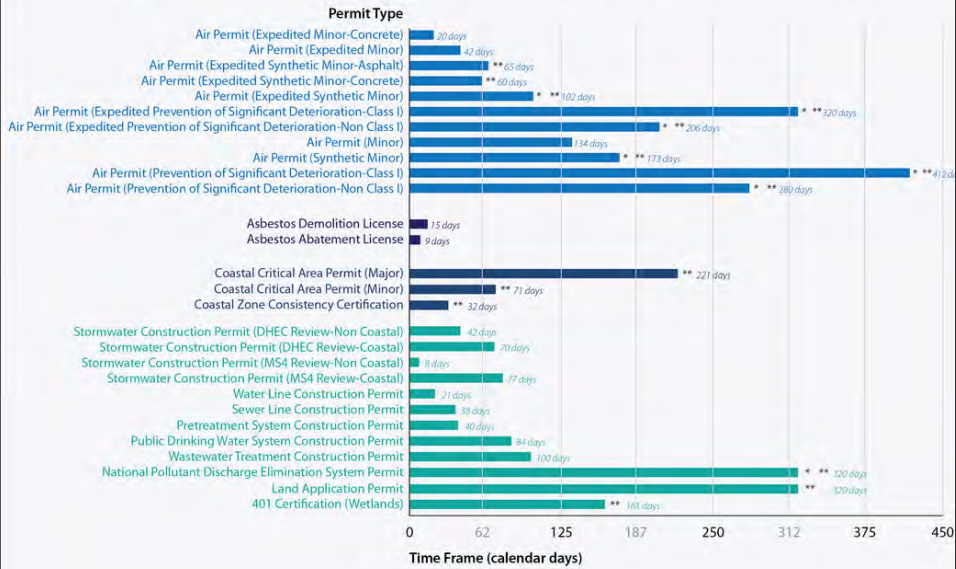
Planning Time Frames

Generally, about 80% of the new permit applications in 2012 were processed faster than the time frames shown below. The time frames shown are in total calendar days and include the time it typically takes for applicants to provide complete information. For planning purposes, you may want to base your expectations on the time frames below with some contingency time added.

Remember, the more complete your application is when you submit it, the faster the permit process will be.

With proper planning, the permitting process can be very efficient. Talking with DHEC (and with your consultant, if you hire one) as early as possible in your planning process will help you to develop a realistic project time schedule. We're committed to working with you to make the process go as smoothly as possible.

Planning Process Time Frames for Some of DHEC's More Common Permits



*The time frame for this permit process also includes time for Environmental Protection Agency review.
 **The time frame for this permit process also includes time for public notice.

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- “I am writing today to thank you for the impressive and responsive meeting that was held today to help my company determine our path forward with exciting growth opportunities in the Charleston area and the Upstate.”
- “I am extremely impressed with your team and the way they opened their doors for us today. Their ‘customer service’ attitude will go a long way in bringing new business to our great state of South Carolina.”
- “First of all I want to compliment you with responding to my email so fast. Most times, I find Government tends not to welcome small businesses. At least here in the Northern States. It’s refreshing to see Government wanting to work with any business.”