
Director's Office, 350 Winter St. NE, Room 200, Salem, Oregon 97301-3878

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For more information:
Lisa Morawski, 503-947-7897

La Grande/Union County joins BuildingPermits.Oregon.gov

(Salem) – Contractors doing work in the city of La Grande and Union County can now buy permits more quickly and easily using the state's e-permitting website at BuildingPermits.Oregon.gov.

La Grande/Union County began selling over-the-counter, non-plan review electrical, plumbing, and mechanical permits to contractors on the website in October. La Grande/Union County is the 34th building department in the state to offer e-permitting services to their customers.

“We are very excited to be a part of these online services,” said Sandy Wyland, La Grande permit technician. “We feel that this will allow more convenience in the permit process for our contractors.”

The Department of Consumer and Business Services' Building Codes Division hosts the e-permitting site, which makes simple permits available at any hour of the day, from any computer connected to the Internet. Contractors can apply and pay for multiple permits from multiple jurisdictions in one transaction.

Within minutes of completing the permit purchase on the website, the contractor can print an Authorization to Begin Work, post it at the work site, and then get started on the project. This service saves contractors time and money by making the purchase of simple, over-the-counter permits easily available from home or office.

“E-permitting is a great tool and is very useful when planning projects out of town,” said Signe Kaber of All Air HVAC Service of La Grande. “The time saved by not having to visit each county's building department or mail permit applications and checks, is substantial and allows our office to run more efficiently. I'm very glad that Union County participates in the ePermitting program.”

E-permitting began in 2005 as part of Governor Kulongoski's regulatory streamlining effort. To date, more than 78,000 permit applications have been processed online through the program.

As the Building Codes Division expands the number of jurisdictions offering permits online, it also is implementing a “Full Service” e-permitting program, which allows contractors to conduct more building department activities, such as receiving plan approval and scheduling inspections online, morning, noon, and night. Springfield is the first jurisdiction to implement the Full Service program.