ELECTRICAL FACTS ABOUT WIRING

Who can do electrical work?

Licensed electrical contractors are authorized to do all electrical work that is within the scope of their license classification. Work by non-licensed electrical people may affect insurance coverage and personal liability. Washington state requires that contractors be bonded, giving customers some financial protection against substandard or incomplete work.

Exemptions from RCW 19.28.006 through 19.28.551

Nothing in RCW 19.28.006 through 19.28.551 shall be construed to require that a person obtain a license or a certified electrician in order to do electrical work at his or her residence or farm or place of business or on other property owned by him or her unless the electrical work is on the construction of a new building intended for rent, sale, or lease. However, if the construction is of a new residential building with up to four units intended for rent, sale, or lease, the owner may receive an exemption from the requirement to obtain a license or use a certified electrician if he or she provides a signed affidavit to the department stating that he or she will be performing the work and will occupy one of the units as his or her principal residence. The owner shall apply to the department for this exemption and may only receive an exemption once every twenty-four months. It is intended that the owner receiving this exemption shall occupy the unit as his or her principal residence for twenty-four months after completion of the units.

All electrical installations, new or remodel, require an electrical permit, which must be obtained prior to starting the job. For example, if the owner is doing the electrical work, the owner must purchase the permit. If an electrical contractor is doing the work, then the electrical contractor must buy the permit.

Before you call for inspection:

- Do not cover or insulate.
- Post the address so it can be seen from the road.
- Post permit on the job site.

Permit Requirements:

- An electrical work permit is required for the installation, alteration, or maintenance of all electrical systems or equipment except for the like-in-kind replacement of a:
  - Contactor, relay, timer, starter, circuit board, or similar control component; household appliance; circuit breaker; fuse; residential luminaire; lamp; snap switch; dimmer; receptacle outlet; thermostat; heating element; and luminaire ballast with an exact same ballast.
  - Component(s) of electric signs outline lighting, skeleton neon tubing when replaced on-site by an appropriate electrical contractor and when the sign outline lighting or skeleton neon tubing electrical system is not modified; ten horsepower or smaller motor.
  - Induction detection loops described in WAC 296-46B-300(2) and used to control gate access devices.
  - Heat cable repair and heat mats in tile grout where the mat is listed by an approved testing laboratory and comes from the manufacturer with pre-connected lead-in conductors.
- An electrical permit and inspections are required for all installations of telecommunications systems on the customer side of the network demarcation point for projects greater than ten telecommunications outlets, all backbone installations regardless of size and all telecommunications cable or equipment installations involving penetrations of fire barriers or passing through hazardous locations.
- In residential multifamily dwellings, permits and inspections are required for all backbone installations, all fire barrier penetrations, and installations of greater than ten outlets in common areas.
- Telecommunication installations within the residential dwelling units of single-family, duplex, and multifamily do not require permits or inspections.

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