



## When is a permit required – Farm Buildings & Colony Use

In the Province of Alberta, we are governed by the legislative requirements found in the Safety Codes Act, Permit Regulation and other regulatory documents. The Permit Regulation states in Section 6:

1. A permit in the building discipline is required for the following:
  - (a) the construction of a building, including the renovation of or addition to a building;
  - (b) a change in the occupancy classification of a building

However, the exemption to this is for farm buildings which are defined as a building located on agricultural land that is occupied for an agricultural operation including housing livestock, storing or sorting agricultural products that have not undergone secondary processing and housing, storing or maintaining machinery.

As such, buildings used for the shelter of animals, crops/crop storage, or for farm machinery are considered to be farm use and do not require a building permit. When a multi-use building includes a portion of the building that is considered 'farm', the portion of the building that is NOT farm use requires a building permit to review for compliance with the building code.

Below is a list of common structures and whether they can be considered 'farm' or if a building permit is required:

- Furniture manufacturing, regardless of whether the furniture is only for the colony or for sale off of the colony is not considered farm use – Permit Required
- Abattoirs/Slaughterhouses are not considered farm use – Permit Required
- Water treatment buildings or concrete batch plants are not considered farm use – Permit Required
- Vegetable sorting, storage & packaging is considered farm use – NO Permit Required
- Machine Shops is considered farm (as long as it services only your machinery) - NO Permit Required
- Plumbing, Electrical, Carpenter Shops are not considered farm use – Permit Required
- Dairy or Chicken Barns are considered farm use – NO Permit Required

### **Plumbing, Gas & Electrical Permits**

Any plumbing, gas or electrical work requires plumbing, gas or electrical permits – regardless if the building is considered 'farm' or not.

Homeowner permits can only be obtained for single family residential dwelling and farm buildings. Therefore, if the building is not exempt from a building permit as described above, then a certified tradesperson is required to obtain the permit.

Certified tradespersons are required to obtain the permit for such buildings as Multi-family dwellings, School, Church, and Kitchens. (*Certified tradesperson: Journeyman Plumber & Gasfitter, Master Electrician*)

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