

Electrical work is defined by the NYC Electrical Code as “installing, altering or repairing any wiring or appliances for electric light, heat or power.” For example, changing a lightbulb is not considered electrical work, but changing the light switch or fixture is. An electrical code was enacted to establish standards to protect both the public and property of the City of New York.

### ▶ **Electrical license and permit requirements**

Electricians are required to be licensed by the Department of Buildings (DOB), and only licensed electricians or their employees may perform electrical work in NYC.

An electrical permit is required for most electrical work performed in your home or business. This includes all handling of electrical wires.

DOB’s Bureau of Electrical Control (BEC) issues electrical permits. Upon receipt of a properly completed application, BEC typically will issue a permit within three business days.

### ▶ **To verify an electrician’s license**

To verify that the electrician you are planning to hire is licensed, call 311 or log on to DOB’s website at [NYC.gov/buildings](http://NYC.gov/buildings) and follow the prompts for the Building Information system (BIS).

### ▶ **Application and permit fees**

Application fees are subject to change. Call 311 for current application fees.

Permit fees are based on the scope of the proposed work (see fee schedule printed on the back of the permit application).

### ▶ **Consequences of working without a permit**

If electrical work is performed without a permit, the owner of the building, as well as the individual who performed the illegal work, may be subject to violations, summonses, court appearances and fines.

Furthermore, if your electrical contractor is unlicensed, he or she will be cited for working without a license.

To resolve electrical violations, you must hire a licensed electrician to file an application and correct the violation.

To report work that is performed without a permit, call 311, or log on to DOB’s website at [NYC.gov/buildings](http://NYC.gov/buildings) to register a complaint online. You can also write to BEC’s Chief of Enforcement.

To report unprofessional conduct by a licensed electrician, contact DOB’s Investigation and Discipline Unit at 212-442-2000.

### ▶ **NYC Adopts National Electrical Code**

In 2002, the City adopted the 1999 National Electrical Code (NEC)—a recognized industry standard with local amendments that adapt it to the unique conditions found in NYC. Adoption of the NEC updates NYC’s antiquated electrical code for the first time in more than three decades.

The new electrical code recognizes the enormous technological advancements that have occurred since the 1960s, including low voltage systems, fiber optics, digital control systems, and solar and fuel cell technologies, and will greatly speed up the approval process for jobs involving such systems. The new code will be updated on a tri-annual basis.

This brochure provides general guidelines. If you have specific questions, call the DOB’s Bureau of Electrical Control at 212-669-8353 or your licensed electrician.

## Checklist

- ✓ **If you are not sure if the work you intend to do requires an electrical permit, call BEC at 212-669-8353.**
- ✓ **Hire a New York City licensed electrician for work that does require an electrical work permit.**

To find a licensed electrician, contact a professional organization such as the NY Electrical Contractors Association at 212-481-0530, or log on to NYC.gov/buildings BIS system for the list of licensed electrician.
- ✓ **Have your licensed electrician complete and submit to BEC an Application for a Certificate of Electrical Inspection.**

All electrical applications must be signed by the owner of the premises or an authorized representative and the electrician performing the work.
- ✓ **If completed properly, the application is entered into a central computer system and given a control number. A permit is then mailed to the licensed electrician.**

If the application is not completed properly, it will be returned by mail to the applicant with a form detailing the errors.
- ✓ **When the electrical work is completed, the electrician arranges for an inspection by scheduling an appointment with BEC.**

If the work complies with the NYC Electrical Code, the inspector signs off on the application. Once all associated fees are paid, a Certificate of Electrical Inspection is mailed to the licensed electrician.

To ensure that the work was completed properly and inspected by BEC, ask your licensed electrician for a copy of the Certificate of Electrical Inspection.

## New York City Department of Buildings

**Executive Offices / 212-566-5000**  
280 Broadway, New York, NY 10007

**Manhattan Borough Office**  
280 Broadway, New York, NY 10007

**Bronx Borough Office**  
1932 Arthur Avenue, Bronx, NY 10457

**Brooklyn Borough Office**  
210 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY 11202

**Queens Borough Office\***  
120-55 Queens Boulevard, Kew Gardens, NY 11424  
(\*new location effective Summer 2003)

**Staten Island Borough Office**  
Borough Hall, Staten Island, NY 10301

**Bureau of Electrical Control**  
Municipal Building  
1 Centre Street, New York, NY 10007

**Investigation and Discipline / 212-442-2000**  
11 Park Place, New York, NY 10007

**Department of Investigation / 212-825-5959**  
80 Maiden Lane, New York, NY 10038

### Call 311 to:

- Report illegal construction work
- Reach DOB Program Units

For comprehensive information about DOB, to check the status of a filing on the Building Information System (BIS), and to download plan/work approval forms and the Building Code, visit NYC.gov/buildings.

### Mission

The NYC Department of Buildings ensures the safe and lawful use of buildings and properties by enforcing the Building Code and Zoning Resolution. We facilitate development with integrity, efficiency and professionalism.

Michael R. Bloomberg, MAYOR  
Patricia J. Lancaster, AIA, COMMISSIONER



about

# Electrical Permits



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KNOWLEDGE**