

Building Permits

Cumberland Township requires building permits for any new structure or modifying an existing structure where the "footprint" or use has changed. Adding decks, porches, dormers etc., are all projects requiring permits. No permit is required for cosmetic changes such as siding, paint or a new roof. Adding kitchens or bathrooms does require a permit. The Road Superintendent should be consulted to assure no traffic hazards are created during construction.

Changing the use of property may require permits or have zoning considerations. Please contact the office to determine the requirements. Building permits are valid for 18 months after issue and must be renewed if construction exceeds 18 months. Construction must begin within three months of receipt of the permits. Building permits are issued within ten days of application and after a preliminary inspection by the zoning officer. Before a building permit for a new house may be issued, the applicant must provide water, sewer and roadway access permits.

Occupancy Permits

Occupancy permits are required for all new principal structures. You must notify the office when the project is completed. An inspection will be made to confirm the project was built according to plans and complies with township ordinances.

House Numbering

Township ordinance #73 requires that house numbers be displayed on houses and both sides of the mailbox. Numbers must be reflective, at least three inches high, of a contrasting color and visible from the street. A single house on a private lane more than 300 feet from the public roadway is not required to display a number on the house.

On-Lot Sewage Disposal Systems

The best designed and properly installed on-lot sewage disposal system still can malfunction if the homeowner does not operate and maintain the system. In addition to requiring costly repairs, malfunctioning systems can contaminate ground waters, cause various health problems, and create unsightly messes and foul odors when raw sewage surfaces or back-ups into the home.

Home owners can prevent malfunctions and ensure the long-term use of their on lot system by conserving water and reducing waste flow into the the septic tank.

Having the septic tank pumped at least every three to five years, depending upon location, tank size and household size.

Avoiding placement of chemicals in the septic system.

Not using the toilet to dispose of bulky, slowly decomposing wastes. Inspecting the septic tank, pipes and drainage field annually. Maintaining accurate records of the septic system (design, installation, location, inspection, pumpings, malfunctions, repairs.)

Preventing run-off from downspouts, sump pumps, and paved surfaces from getting into the septic system.

Keeping heavy vehicles, equipment and livestock away from the septic system.

No planting trees and shrubs over or close to the septic system.

For more information contact the Townships Sewage Enforcement Officer of PA Department of Environmental Protection.