

## Building Inspection FAQ

Q. Do I need a building permit for a storage shed at my house?

A. If your shed is less than 256 square feet and is used for housing your lawn mower, yard tools, etc., you do not need a permit. If it's more than 256 square feet, a permit is required. Either of these scenarios require that you meet the setbacks in your zoning area.

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Q. Can I add a bedroom in my existing basement?

A. Maybe. If you have a septic system, it's designed for the number of bedrooms in your house. If you add a bedroom outright, your system may not work properly. Some may add a bedroom in the basement while turning an existing upstairs bedroom into a craft room or office, which would be allowed. Keep in mind that any bedroom must have compliant egress for safety. Any bedroom in your house must have an emergency egress opening, be it a door or window, directly to the outside. Call or email for more information regarding your particular application.

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Q. Do I need a permit for a swimming pool?

A. Maybe. The Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code requires a building permit for any swimming pool that has a surface area greater than 150 square feet (13.95 m<sup>2</sup>), more than 5,000 gallons (19 000 L) and more than 24 inches (610 mm) deep. The code makes no distinction between in-ground, above-ground or inflatable pools, hot tubs or spas.

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Q. Can I build or add to or a deck at my pool? Yes, if certain criteria are met. Call or email for more info.

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Q. What are the footing requirements in Amelia County?

A. Footing depth is 18" minimum to good soil. Call or email for information about your particular project.

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Q. I want to do my own work. Is this legal?

A. If you are the property owner, lessee, or are a contractor, yes.

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Q. How long is my permit good for?

A. Permits are required to have some level of activity within 6 months of issuance or from the date of the last inspection. While we recommend swift completions, we also understand that stuff happens. If you receive a letter from us that states your 6 month window has expired, call us and we will do our best to assist you.

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