



## Building and Permitting Services

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# Dock and Shoreline Application and Permitting Guide

This guide is intended to help you submit the required application and documents to receive a Lee County building permit.

The guide includes these sections:

1. [Permit Description](#)
2. [Complete your general permit application](#)
3. [Attach the required and conditional documents to your application package](#)
4. [Understand the review process and track your application](#)
5. [Receive your permit](#)
6. [Pay your fee\(s\)](#)
7. [Request the necessary inspection\(s\)](#)
8. [Obtain your Certificate of Compliance or Certificate of Occupancy](#)

## 1. Permit Description

A Dock and Shoreline permit is required for dock and shoreline structures including boat lifts and ramps, boat davits, boathouses, fishing piers and observation decks, boardwalks, floating docks, mooring pilings, seawalls, riprap rock revetments, dune walkovers, and other erosion control structures. Dredging is not a structure, but is also permitted through the same procedure.

Each permit use may require multiple work activities; therefore, refer to the applicable codes, which may include but are not limited to:

- [Florida Building Code](#) 8<sup>th</sup> Edition (2023)
- [Land Development Code](#) Chapter 26

**Need Help?** Contact us @ [PODPlanREV@leegov.com](mailto:PODPlanREV@leegov.com) with your detailed questions.

## 2. Complete the General Permit Application

*A complete application package consists of the application (paper or online) and all required supporting documents.*

All applicants are encouraged to use Lee County's eConnect online permitting system to apply for permits. **CONTRACTORS ARE REQUIRED TO USE ECONNECT.**

### A. Paper Application Package

**Paper applications can only be submitted by Owner-Builders.** Complete the [paper application](#) and attach all of the required and conditional documents described in this guide, including the [Owner-Builder Disclosure Statement](#). INCLUDE THREE COLLATED SETS OF PLANS for paper submissions.

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A paper application package must be submitted in person to the Building Department. The office is located at the Lee County Public Works Building, first floor, 1500 Monroe St., Fort Myers, FL 33901.

### B. eConnect Application Package (Electronic Submission)

#### Register for eConnect

To apply for a Lee County permit online, you must first register at [eConnect](#). Instructions for **New Users: Register for an Account** are included on the eConnect login page.

Review the [eConnect Users Guide](#) for more details about using eConnect.

Also see **eConnect Instructions** highlighted throughout this guide.

#### eConnect Steps

Once you have logged into [eConnect](#), select the *Permitting* menu to *Create an Application*. Review the general disclaimer terms and select the checkbox to *Continue Application*.

##### 1. Select a Record Type

On the *Select a Record Type* screen, select **Other >> Dock**. Or search on the term *Dock*. Select the radio button and *Continue Application*.

##### 2. Provide the Property Information (\* indicates required fields) to identify the property for which the permit will be used. Lookup the property information using one of the options below, then click *Search*:

- Address (using the required fields Street No., Street Name); or
- Parcel (using Parcel Number).

**eConnect Instructions:** If multiple addresses are found, they will be displayed in the *Address Search Result List*. Use the radio button to select the desired record, then click *Select*.

Once search results are displayed, the other fields on the screen will automatically populate. Review information for accuracy and *Continue Application*.

##### 3. Applicant and Contacts

If a licensed contractor is providing the service for this permit, they must have either a State-issued license registered with Lee County or have a Lee County-issued certificate of competency. Both require a current Certificate of Insurance for liability and workers' compensation AND/OR a current workers' compensation exemption status with the State of Florida. Verify Lee County contractor registration at [Contractor Search](#) or contact Contractor Licensing at [ContractorLicensing@leegov.com](mailto:ContractorLicensing@leegov.com) or 239-533-8895.

Note: If the applicant is an owner-builder and not a licensed contractor, an [Owner-Builder Disclosure Statement](#) must be attached to the application.

To associate the Applicant and Contact(s) with the permit application, use either: *Select from Account* or *Add New*.

Note: The Applicant listed in eConnect will receive all notifications from the County related to their application.

#### 4. Project Detail Fields

Complete all applicable fields. An explanation of certain fields has been provided below for your reference.

- **Project Name:** What is the name of the project?
  - For Commercial Projects - input the Project's Business Name (associated with the Business License) as the Project Name
  - For Residential Projects - input the name of the community/subdivision or city as the Project Name
- **Brief Description of Proposed Work:** Provide enough detail for the reviewer to understand the permit-related details of the project and *Continue Application*.
- **Type of Permit:** Select Permit Type.  
(Options: *Boathouse, Boatlift, Boatramp, Davits, Dock, Dredging, Dune Walkover, Fishing Pier, Observation Deck, Manatee Payment Only, Other, Repair Deck Repair Other Retaining Wall Rip Rap Seawall, Wetland Boardwalk*)
- **Type of Use:**  
(Options: *1&2 Family, Commercial, Multi-Family Residential*)
- **Private Provider Plan Review:** Is the plan being reviewed by a private provider? If yes, the Private Provider Compliance Affidavit and Notice to Building Officials of the Use Private Provider form must be submitted with this application. Notice to Private Providers  
(Options: *Yes or No*).
- **Private Provider Inspections:** Will the project be inspected by a private provider?

Note: Private Provider Inspections are required if electing to use Private Provider Review services.

(Options: *Yes or No*).

- **Master #:**
- **DO#:** Development Order number
- **Directions:** Provide directions to the property and the specific structure being permitted.

#### Additional Requirements:

- **Area of Construction:** Area of Construction (Sqft)
- **Type of Roof:**  
(Options: *Built Up, Cedar Shake, Concrete Tile, Fiberglass Shingle, Max: Tile, Metal, Modified, Multiple Types, NO DESCRIPTION, Rolled Roofing, Shingle over Shingle, Single Ply, Urethane Coating*)
- **Waterbody Type:**  
(Options: *Manmade, Natural Waterbody*).
- **Job Value:**
- **Seawall/Retaining Wall Length (Linear Ft):**
- **Number of Watercraft Slips:**
- **Electrical Permit Required:**  
(Options: *Yes or No*).
- **Fire Suppression:**  
(Options: *Yes or No*).

#### 5. Attachments/Documents

- For Electronic Submittals: In the *Attachments* window, *Add* the required and conditional documents.
- For Paper Submittals: Provide the completed application, the Owner Builder Disclosure Statement and any other required and conditional documents.

(Use list of documents in Section 3.)

### 3. Attach Required and Conditional Documents

*Notice: Lee County may request additional supporting documentation to process the permit. Additional restrictions applicable to this property may be found in public records, and there may be additional permits required from other governmental entities such as water management districts, state or federal agencies.*

#### Required Documents

**1. Site Plan / Plot Plan**

Prepare to include a site plan drawn to scale and with an accurate boundary line survey. Submit a site plan that shows:

- Property boundaries;
- Width of parcel at waterbody;
- Width of waterbody;
- Description of shoreline, including vegetation;
- Existing structures in or adjacent to waterbody;
- Distance proposed structure extends into waterbody with setbacks from side property line shown;
- Mean low water depth (MLW) for any boat slips proposed in a natural waterbody (river, gulf, etc.); and
- Flood hazard areas, floodways, and design flood elevations for the site.

**Tips:**

- A property boundary survey works well as a base map for the site plan.
- Paper submissions must include three (3) copies.

**2. Construction Drawing**

Prepare construction plan drawings which must include all measurements necessary to compute dimensions, including square footage of all proposed structures. The construction drawings must include the size and type of materials to be used. Examples of materials that require specifications include pilings (length/diameter), dimensional lumber, fasteners (bolts/nails) and size/quantity of steel in concrete.

**Tips:**

- The drawings must show the location of the back flow prevention device;
- Show how project code compliance is being met;
- All construction drawings associated with commercial, industrial, or multi-family projects must include sealed construction drawings by a professional engineer (P.E.) or registered architect; and
- Paper submission must include three (3) copies.

#### Conditional Required Documents

**3. No Rise Certificate**

If work is being done within a regulatory Floodway and involves land disturbing activity (e.g. moving dirt), including fill, new construction, substantial improvements, and other development, an analysis is required showing that the proposed work will not increase the base flood elevation. The analysis (known as a No-Rise or No-Impact Certification) is to be submitted, reviewed, and subsequently approved by the Floodplain Administrator. This analysis must be signed and sealed by a Florida licensed engineer and is to be submitted with the Site Plan. Please review this website for more information:

<https://www.leegov.com/dcd/flood/firm/zones/regulatoryfloodway/>

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To determine if the parcel for your worksite is in a Floodway, go to the LeeSpinS website (<https://leegis.leegov.com/LeeSpinS/>); search by STRAP #, Folio ID, Owner, or Address – results returned with icons across the bottom; click on the Flood Info icon; then click on Flood Info to retrieve a report; in the 3<sup>rd</sup> column of the FIRM Floodway row you will see either 'FLOODWAY', 'OUTSIDE FLOODWAY', or the name of a Municipality (such as 'City of Fort Myers'). FLOODWAY means that your parcel is in a Floodway; OUTSIDE FLOODWAY means that your parcel is not in a Floodway; and the municipality name means that you will need to contact that municipality to determine if your worksite is in a Floodway. You may also see a percentage (%) next to FLOODWAY or OUTSIDE FLOODWAY. These numbers show the percentage of the parcel that is in, or out of, the Floodway.

Lee County contact information: (239) 533-8585



Municipality contact information:

- City of Bonita Springs (239) 444-6150
- City of Cape Coral (239) 574-0553
- City of Fort Myers (239) 321-7925
- City of Sanibel (239) 472-3700
- Village of Estero (239) 221-5036
- Town of Fort Myers Beach (239) 765-0202

#### 4. Owner-Builder Disclosure Statement

If the installer is not using a licensed contractor and will act as an owner-builder, submit an [Owner-Builder Disclosure Statement](#)

5. **Manatee Protection Plan** Single-Family parcels containing more than (2) boat slips must comply with the Manatee Protection Plan Boat Facility Sitting Criteria

#### 6. Development Order Review Information

If proposed work is commercial, industrial, or multi-family, a development order (DO) or limited development order (LDO) is required. Contact Development Services at (239) 533-8585. If proposed work is part of an approved development order (DO or LDO) provide one (1) copy of the approved DO plans.

#### 7. Proof of Ownership

If the ownership information on the permit application does not match the property owner information on the Lee County Property Appraiser's website (<http://www.leepa.org>), submit proof of ownership, for example, a recorded Warranty Deed.

#### 8. Setback Agreement

If acknowledgement is required from adjacent property owners, submit the [Dock and Shoreline Structure Setback Agreement](#).

#### 9. Permission Letter from Owner / HOA

If the project is being done by a tenant or on property regulated by a home owners association, submit a letter verifying the owner or HOA's permission to proceed. It must include:

- Address of the project site;
- Type of work/permit that is being requested;

- Statement that the owner or HOA approves of the work/permit being done and gives permission to tenant/contractor to do the work;
- Permit number if already available; and
- Signature of property owner or authorized HOA official.

**Tips:**

Condo or homeowner associations usually have their own form for this permission process.

**10.. Dock Authorization / Exemptions**

Submit authorizations or exemptions required for new docks from:

- DEP (Department of Environmental Protection);
- ACOE (Army Corps of Engineers);
- SWF-WMD (Southwest Florida Water Management District).

Structures or repairs of structures require written authorization or exemption from:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE);
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

**Tip:**

Under an agreement executed in 1998, the DEP has received delegation of authority to issue specific ACOE approvals. The Fort Myers Office of the DEP is located in the State Office Building, 2295 Victoria Avenue, Office 364 at (239) 344-5600.

**11. Additional Permits required by Plan Review**

If additional permits are required by Plan Review, you will be advised by the reviewer.

**12. Cross Section Diagram for Dock**

If the project includes a dock, provide a cross sectional diagram of the dock showing the pilings, framing decking, bolting, dimensions / sizes of materials and hardware.

**13. Certified Sealed Survey with Coastal Construction Zone Lines and Flood Zone Requirement**

If the project includes property lines extending out into the water that change direction, that may be perpendicular to a seawall, or that may be on an angle for ends of canals (for example, property lines may run perpendicular to a natural channel and on an angle from the shoreline, which effects side setbacks, building areas, and / or distances out for ingress or egress to adjoining properties), a signed and sealed Riparian Survey may be needed to show ends of canals, pie shaped lots, corner lots, and setback variation. This may also be addressed using an 'as built' survey.

**14. Benthic Species Survey**

A dock, including mooring area that exceeds 200 feet will require a benthic species survey assessment as defined in section 26-14 of the Lee County Land Development Code, conducted between April 1<sup>st</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup>, demonstrating the increase in length will not adversely impact seagrass beds or other marine species

**15. Electrical Diagram**

If there is going to be any electric on a commercial dock, an electrical diagram is required.

**Tip:** Show electrical connections, along with the source of electricity.

**16 Historical District or Property Architectural Review Documentation**

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If the project is within a Historic District or is a Designated Historic Property, follow the regulations for [Designated Historic Districts](#) on the Lee County website. Please contact [DCDHistoric@leegov.com](mailto:DCDHistoric@leegov.com) if you have questions.

#### 17. Vegetation Removal Permit

If the project is on property in unincorporated Lee County that is over 5 acres, over 2 acres on Pine Island, or any property on a barrier island, then a permit is required for the removal of vegetation and protection of endangered species. For more information, please review the [Environmental Sciences](#) section of the website and [Application Information and Authorization Letter](#). Please contact [PODEnvVeg@leegov.com](mailto:PODEnvVeg@leegov.com) if you have questions.

#### 18. Notice of Commencement

If project value is greater than \$5,000, submit the completed [Notice of Commencement](#) to the Lee County Clerk of Court to provide notice that improvement will be made to a real property. **Permit cannot be issued until this notice is recorded with the Lee County Clerk of Court. Tip:** Complete this as soon as possible; the lack of a Notice of Commencement submission commonly holds up issuance of the permit.

## 4. Understand the Review Process and Track Your Application

### Completeness Check

When the application package is first received, it is reviewed for completeness to determine that the general application is complete and that all required documents, signatures, and seals are attached. If the package is incomplete, the applicant must provide missing information before the application package can be forwarded for review.

### Application Review

Complete applications are forwarded to multiple functional areas for review.

- [eConnect applications](#) can be reviewed simultaneously by the required reviewers.
- [Paper applications](#) are reviewed by one person at a time and must be physically handed off among the required reviewers.

Applicants can use [eConnect](#) at any time to track the progress of the application record through the process, for both Electronic and Paper submittals.

**eConnect Instructions:** Search for your permit application using *My Records*, the *Global Search* or the *Search Applications* under the *Permitting* menu. Click on the record number for your permit application to see the Records Status, Conditions and Record Details.

### Notice of Rejection

If applicable, the final reviewer consolidates all comments and an email notice is sent to the applicant.

**Rejection Notice:** A rejection notice will be sent to the applicant with specific points of failure that must be corrected and resubmitted for approval. Applicants have 30 days to address the points of

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failure and to resubmit information and documentation. A cover letter addressing the points of failure is required with the resubmittal.

- **Resubmitting an Application via eConnect:** To update the required information and to ensure correct versioning in eConnect, **attachments that are resubmitted should have the same file name as the original.**
- **Resubmitting a Paper Application:** Bring updated documentation to the first floor of the Lee County Public Works Building, 1500 Monroe St., Fort Myers, FL 33901.

### Notice of Approval

**File Verification - Notification:** Staff completes a final document review to determine any outstanding documents and invoice all applicable fees. The “Ready Sheet” outlining outstanding fees and required documents is emailed to the applicant.

## 5. Receive Your Permit

Applicants who applied electronically may access their permit(s) and approved plans from [eConnect](#).

**eConnect Instructions:** Search for your permit application using *My Records*, the *Global Search* or the *Search Applications* under the *Permitting* menu. Click on the record number for your permit application, and select *Attachments*. All documents will be listed. Choose the *Actions* drop-down to review document details. Click on the document name to open or save.

For Paper Applications: The permit and approved plans are issued in person at the Lee County Public Works Building, 1500 Monroe St., Fort Myers, FL 33901.

Note: Owner-Builders are required by Florida Statute to **personally appear** at the Lee County Public Works Building, 1500 Monroe St., Fort Myers, FL 33901 to sign for the building permit regardless of how it was submitted.

Issued permits must pass at least one inspection within 180 days from issuance or the permit will expire.

## 6. Pay Your Fee(s)

All payments must be received prior to scheduling an inspection.

### Payment Options:

- Make payments through [eConnect](#)
- Deliver the payment in person to the Lee County Public Works Building, 1500 Monroe St., Fort Myers, FL 33901
- Make a credit card payment by phone, 239-533-8997, option \*.

**Cash is not accepted;** please pay by credit/debit card, check, eCheck, or money order.

**eConnect Instructions:** Search for your permit application using *My Records*, the *Global Search*, or the *Search Applications* under the *Permitting* menu. Click on the record number for



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your permit application, select the menu option for *Payments >> Fees*, then click *Pay Fees* button, review fees, select *Continue Application*, enter your payment information and click *Submit Payment*.

## 7. Request Inspection(s)

Reference the issued permit for a list of the required inspections.

When ready, applicants may request inspections through [eConnect](#), as well as by calling the [Automated Inspection System](#), 239-533-8997.

The Permit, Approved Plans and Manufacturers' Specifications are required to be onsite during the inspection.

**eConnect Instructions:** Search for your permit application using *My Records*, the *Global Search*, or the *Search Applications* under the *Permitting* menu. Click on the record number for your permit application, select *Inspections* then select the *Schedule or Request an Inspection* button, select the inspection(s) from the list and *Continue*. Select the date and verify the contact and location information, then click *Finish*.

### Common Inspections Include:

#### Boat House

101 Foundation/Footing

102 Floor/Slab

103 Tie Beam

105 Rough Framing

106 Final Structural/Building

118 Marine Final

130 Sheathing/Straps/Eng

501 Roof Dry In

502 Roof In Process

503 Roof Final

**Boatlift, Boat ramp, Davits, Dock, Dredging, Dune Walkover, Fishing Pier\Observation Deck, Other, Repair Deck, Repair Other, Retaining Wall, Rip Rap, Seawall, Wetland Boardwalk**

305 Electrical Final (if this project includes Electric, the Electrical Final Inspection must be approved prior to requesting the Marine Final Inspection)

118 Marine Final

## 8. Obtain the Certificate of Compliance or Certificate of Occupancy

Once all inspections have passed, the permit is closed and the Certificate of Compliance and/or the Certificate of Occupancy are issued. Applicants may pull certificate information through [eConnect](#).

**eConnect Instructions:** Search for your permit application using *My Records*, the *Global Search* or the *Search Applications* under the *Permitting* menu. Click on the record number for your permit application. Select *Reports* at the top of the screen, select *Certificate* from the list and a new window will display the document; options to save or print will be displayed.