



Building and Permitting Services

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Occupancy (Use) 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](#)
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1. Permit Description

Any business operating from a commercial location requires an Occupancy Permit. (Also known as a Use Permit, [Land Development Code 6-111](#))

You MAY NOT move into a building/unit until you have been notified by our office that it is permissible to do so. The information below will help direct you to the proper permit procedure and provides important information for completing a USE Permit application.

To alter or erect a sign – including a tenant panel change – a separate Sign permit is required.

Need Help? Contact us @ occszoning@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.

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 >> Occupancy Inspection Checklist**. Or search on the term *Temporary*. 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 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

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- **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 Use:**
(Options: *Charter Boat, Doggie Dining, Executive Suite, Horse Boarding, Hot Dog Stand, Ice Cream Truck, Lunch Wagon, New Occupancy, Plant Nursery, Shared Space -Office, Shared Space-Other, Tenant Change*)
- **Executive Suites:**
(List)
- **Shared Garbage Container:**
(Options: *Yes or No*)
- **Landlord:**
- **Landlord Phone #:**
- **Power Required**
(Options: *FPL, LCEC, No, Yes*)
- **Sanitary System:**
(Options: *Mastered Approval, N/A, Public Sewer, Septic System*)
- **Water Supply:**
(Options: *Mastered Approval, N/A, Public Water, Well*)
- **Directions:**

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 submit a site plan / plot plan depicting property lines, building location and parking layout. Site plans may be hand drawn.

Site plans and plot plans must meet the requirements of Land Development Code (LDC) [Sec. 34-1771/1772](#) for the use of operation of home occupants (for example, a business operating out of a home).

Tip: Review information about the requirements at <http://www.leegov.com/dcd/BldPermitServ/OpenBusn>.

2. Floor Plans

Prepare to include the existing floor plan as well as the proposed floor plan. The Floor Plans are for depicting building layout, entrances/exits, location of electrical outlets. The fire rating of the tenant separation walls need to be identified on the plan. Label on all rooms/areas within the building with the proposed use. Floor plans may be hand drawn, but must accurately depict the existing and proposed use of the building/unit. It is important that you depict any proposed changes on the proposed floor plan, including structural, plumbing, electrical and mechanical (AC) so that we can provide information on any additional permits required. This will ensure that your permit process is completed as quickly as possible.

3. Proof of Restroom Facilities

Prepare to show proof of restroom facilities. This may be in the form of a port-a-let contract or a letter allowing use of facilities in a building located on the property.

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 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 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)

After application approval and submittal of payment, Lee County will provide a list of required inspections/reviews and contact information to schedule them. Any of the following may apply:

- Zoning and Code Enforcement
- Building Inspection
- Fire Inspection
- Garbage Verification
- Septic and Well Verifications
- Power Release

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:

106 Final Structural/Building
902 Fire

8. Obtain the Certificate of Compliance or Certificate of Occupancy

After all approvals are received by Lee County, your Certificate of Use will be issued, allowing you to occupy the location and obtain your Local Business Tax Receipt from the Lee County Tax Collector. You MUST have both a Certificate of Use (or a Certificate of Occupancy if a building permit is required) and a Local Business Tax Receipt in order to open your business. Applicants may pull certificate info 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.