



Solar Permitting FAQ

This FAQ information is on the requirements for installing Photo-Voltaic (PV) also known as solar panel systems on single-family, two-family homes and townhomes as defined by the 2021 International Residential and Fire Code (IRC/IFC).

Q. How can I submit my permit application?

A. Online via the [Citizen Connect Portal](#) plans are required, they are uploaded to the portal as PDF documents. Please visit the tabs on the left-hand side of the [Permit Center](#) for applications and handouts.

Q. Do they need to be stamped by the engineer?

A. The engineer does not need to stamp plans if all exceptions in [IRC R324.4](#) are met.

Q. Do you require a general contractor, electrical contractor, or both? Are out-of-state contractors required to be licensed?

A. You must provide information for your General Contractor, and they must have a [City of Lake Stevens endorsement](#) included in their Washington State Business License. These can be obtained through the [Washington Department of Revenue](#).

Q. What applications are required? Does the homeowner need to sign it?

A. Building and Fire permits are required, as well as an Electrical permit through [L&I](#). No zoning permit is required. Please see our online Permit Center for these applications and handouts.

- Building – #4 Residential-Alteration Permit [Building Applications & Handouts](#).
- Fire – #14 Residential Fire Permit [Fire Applications & Handouts](#).
- Electrical permits are pulled through L&I. See the [website](#) for questions related to electrical metering.

Q. Are fire setbacks required on the plans, and what is the minimum wind speed?

A. Yes. Roof access and pathways shall be shown on the roof plan for both Building and Fire permits of 36" clear access and 18" from hip or valley. 110 mph – 3 second gusts. Please see the Design Criteria [here](#)

Q. If the permit requires a revision, does it need a revision form?

A. If the permit has been issued, a revision application will be required, and a revision fee per the fee schedule, [2025 Permit Fee Schedules](#), will be assessed.

Q. What is the estimated time frame for getting the permit approved? Approved plans are issued and shall be available onsite for all inspections.

A. 2-3 weeks depending on quality of plans and staff availability for permit approval. An approved set of building plans, a permit, an inspection card, and any other approved documents will be issued at the time of permit issuance.