

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PERMITS

- **When do I need a permit?**

Per the Village of Gowanda Municipal Code §26.31 Application for Building Permit

- A. *Issuance from Building Inspector: No person, firm or corporation shall commence the erection, construction, enlargement, alteration, removal, improvement, demolition, conversion or change in the nature of the occupancy of any building or structure, or cause the same to be done, without first obtaining a separate building permit from the Building Inspector for each such building or structure; except that no building permit shall be required for the performance of ordinary repairs which are not structural in nature.*

- **Where do I get an application?**

Building Permit Applications are available on the Village of Gowanda's Web page, in person at either the Clerk's office, or the Building Inspectors office.

- **Where do I submit my application?**

Building Permits can be submitted to the Village Clerk, Code Enforcement Office, or via email at Gowandacode@gmail.com. Be sure to include all the required forms, building plans and any other pertinent information. A list of required information is within the building permit application.

- **Can I get my permit the same day?**

Depends on the scope of work to be done. All permits from this office involve plan review. Permits are generally issued within 7-10 days after your application is deemed complete.

- **For how long does my permit last?**

A Building permit issued pursuant to this Part shall expire one (1) year from the date of issuance or upon the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy / Compliance. The permit may, with permission of the Code Enforcement Official, be renewed for successive one (1) year periods provided that the permit has not been revoked or suspended at the time the application for renewal is made.

- **Building Permit fees?**

It varies on the type of permit and scope of work. The fee schedule can be found on the village website in the code book in Chapter 26.

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- **What form of payment is accepted?**

Cash, check or money order. Please make payable to "Village of Gowanda". All application fees are non-refundable

- **Do I need a fence for my pool?**

Generally, yes, a fence is required and a permit application must be submitted. We provide a pamphlet with all of the NYS code regulations for your convenience

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE.

- **How often do I need to mow my lawn?**

Per the Village of Gowanda Municipal Code 44.42

- A) It shall be the duty of the owner, lessee or person having charge of each and every parcel of land in this Village to keep said parcel free of harmful weeds and other rank or noxious vegetation.
- B) Grass shall be cut on improved private property at least every two weeks and on vacant parcels of land at least once every three weeks from the first day of May to the last day of October of each year. This provision shall not apply to land under cultivation, naturally wooded areas or undeveloped areas which are at least two hundred (200) feet distant from any occupied building or residence.

- **Why do I need my house number on the house?**

Per the NYS Property Maintenance Code: [F] 304.3 Premises Identification Buildings shall have approved address numbers placed in a position to be plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property. These numbers shall contrast with their background. Address numbers shall be Arabic numerals or alphabet letters. Numbers shall be not less than 4 inches (102 mm) in height with a minimum stroke width of 0.5 inch (12.7 mm).

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PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

- **What do you mean I have to paint my house?**

Per the NYS Property Maintenance Code: 304.2 Protective Treatment - Exterior surfaces, including but not limited to, doors, door and window frames, cornices, porches, trim, balconies, decks and fences, shall be maintained in good condition. Exterior wood surfaces, other than decay-resistant woods, shall be protected from the elements and decay by painting or other protective covering or treatment. Peeling, flaking and chipped paint shall be eliminated and surfaces repainted. Siding and masonry joints, as well as those between the building envelope and the perimeter of windows, doors and skylights, shall be maintained weather resistant and water tight. Metal surfaces subject to rust or corrosion shall be coated to inhibit such rust and corrosion, and surfaces with rust or corrosion shall be stabilized and coated to inhibit future rust and corrosion. Oxidation stains shall be removed from exterior surfaces. Surfaces designed for stabilization by oxidation are exempt from this requirement.

- **How many cars can I have?**

Per the NYS Property Maintenance Code: [NY] 302.8 Motor Vehicles Except as provided for in statute, local law, ordinance or other regulations, not more than one inoperative or unlicensed motor vehicle shall be parked, kept or stored on any premises, and no vehicle shall at any time be in a state of major disassembly, disrepair, or in the process of being stripped or dismantled. Painting of vehicles is prohibited unless conducted inside an approved spray booth.

Exception: A vehicle of any type is permitted to undergo major overhaul, including body work, provided that such work is performed inside a structure or similarly enclosed area designed and approved for such purposes.

- **Why do I have to fix my sidewalk?**

Per the NYS Property Maintenance Code: 302.3 Sidewalks and Driveways - Sidewalks, walkways, stairs, driveways, parking spaces and similar areas shall be kept in a proper state of repair, and maintained free from hazardous conditions.

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PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

- **Yes, there is a code for cleaning up garbage around your property.**

Per the NYS Property Maintenance Code: 302.1 Sanitation - Exterior property and premises shall be maintained in a clean, safe and sanitary condition. The occupant shall keep that part of the exterior property that such occupant occupies or controls in a clean and sanitary condition.

308.1 Accumulation of Rubbish or Garbage - Exterior property and premises, and the interior of every structure, shall be free from any accumulation of rubbish or garbage.

308.2.1 Rubbish Storage Facilities - The owner of every occupied premises shall supply approved covered containers for rubbish, and the owner of the premises shall be responsible for the removal of rubbish.

BUSINESS PERMITS

- **When do I need a Business Permit?**

A Business Permit is needed prior to opening a business for operation. Once a permit application is completed and submitted. It will be reviewed and an inspection will be completed. Once the Licensing Officer reviews and approves the application, a permit will be issued.

- **What information is needed for my Business Permit?**

All business permit applications are given a comprehensive list of all documents that are needed.

VIOLATION LETTERS

- **What do I do if I receive a violation letter?**

If you receive a violation letter. Please review it. If you don't agree with the contents of the letter, please contact us. We will be happy to review it with you and advise where we can. Also, by contacting us to not only confirm receipt of the violation but to advise us of your plan to gain compliance.

- **Can a Code Enforcement Officer issue an appearance ticket to court?**

Yes, Code Enforcement Officers have the authority per NYS. Failure to appear or make other approved arrangements may result in additional legal action.