

Government Service Center 178 Sams Street Decatur, GA 30030

Chief Executive Officer Lorraine Cochran-Johnson DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY

Director Juliana A. Njoku

# <u>New Commercial Building</u> <u>Permit Guide</u>

# Three-Step Process to Complete Your New Commercial Building

This permit applies to the new construction of any commercial or Multifamily residential structure



# What to Know Before You Apply

- □ **Zoning Requirements**: Do you know the zoning of the property, all the building setbacks, and the maximum impervious surface allowed? Call the Division of Planning, at **404-371-2155**, **Option 4**
- Historic District: Are you in a historic district? To find out, call the Division of Planning, at 404-371-2155, Option 4
- □ Valid Address: You will need to have a valid address to apply for a permit. To learn more about the process to create a new address or suite, contact the DeKalb County GIS Department, at 404-371-2257
- □ **Complete Applications**: Faster service is provided when customers submit complete applications. Knowing the information above ensures our staff will be able to provide excellent customer service
- **Land Development Permit**: You must apply for a Land Development Permit before you apply for a building permit

## **STEP ONE – APPLICATION SUBMITTAL**

# Submit required documents and pay all necessary fees via the ePermits Portal (epermits.dekalbcountyga.gov)

# **Required Documents**

- **Building Permit Application**: Complete every section that pertains to you
- **Scaled Floor Plan**: After the permit application is processed, an ePlans email will go to the applicant so that an electronic copy of the Floor Plan and Key Plan can be submitted. They must be drawn to an architect's scale and consistent with the attached Commercial Plans Submittal Checklist



- **Site Plan:** Submit an electronic copy of your site plan to ePlans.. A site plan is prepared by an engineer or surveyor registered in the state of Georgia. The site plan should contain the location of building site, property lines, all setbacks, the location of the proposed addition, erosion control measures, tree locations, flood plain, state waters, easements, and location of dumpster and port-o-let, as applicable
- □ **Contractor Requirements:** Contractors must be licensed by the State of GA, have a GA business license, and have government-issued identification. The names on all licenses must match.
- □ **Land Development Permit Application Number**: Required when major digging or grading will occur on the site
- **Sewer Tap Application**: Required to establish new sewer service
- □ **Water Meter Application**: Required to establish new water service, and will be provided at intake

## Your project may also require the following:

- **Authorized Agent Form**: Required to apply for a permit on behalf of a contractor
- **Zoning Verification**: Required for auto dealers and auto brokers. For more information, call the Division of Current Planning at **404-371-2155**, **Option 4**
- □ Notarized Letter of Entertainment: Required form for restaurants, nightclubs, and latenight establishments. For more information, call the Division of Current Planning at 404-371-2155, Option 4
- Department of Agriculture Approval: Georgia Department of Agriculture approval is required for the sale of any pre-packaged or uncooked food. For more information, call 404-656-3627
- **Board of Health Approval**: Board of Health approval is required for restaurants, tattoo parlors, or any sale of prepared food. For more information, call **404-508-7900**
- **Fire Repair Requirements**: If you are repairing a building damaged in a fire, you will need the following:
  - Copy of the Fire Incident Report. To obtain a copy of this fire report, you need to call 770-724-7740. The reports office is located at 1960 West Exchange Place, Room 203; Tucker, Georgia 30084
  - An official letter showing the current tax-assessed value of the fire-damaged building. This letter can be secured from the DeKalb County Tax Assessors Office located at 120 West Trinity Place, Room 208 Decatur, GA 30030. Phone: 404-371-0841
  - 3. A letter showing the replacement cost of the damaged structure
- **FOG Evaluation**: All restaurants, nightclubs and bars, hospitals, schools, and late-night establishments must submit a plumbing plan, a mechanical plan, and an additional floor plan to be reviewed for compliance with the Fats, Oils, and Grease Program. Churches, hotels, and other establishments may require a FOG evaluation if food or drinks are prepared or dishes are washed on-site. For more information, please call **404-687-7150**



## Payment of Fees (all fees are due upon application submittal)

- DeKalb County accepts Visa, MasterCard, checks, money orders, and cashier's checks. The County does not accept cash, American Express or counter checks (checks without your name printed on it). Make checks payable to "DeKalb County"
- Sewer Access Fees: Sewer access fees will be calculated during the review process, and if applicable will be due prior to permit issuance. If you have questions about your sewer access fees, please call **404-371-2112**

## **STEP TWO - REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

- **Zoning Review:** Zoning Officers will review your plans to ensure consistency with the Zoning Code
- □ **Land Development Review:** Engineering Review Officers will examine your plans to ensure consistency with County and State Land Development Codes
- Life Safety Code Review: All plans will be reviewed to verify conformity with Life Safety Code
- **Zoning Review follow-up:** Plan review staff will inform you if there are redline comments (corrections) or next steps
- Permit Approval: When your permit is <u>APPROVED</u> you will receive an ePlans notification to download it, along with the stamped plans. If your plans are <u>NOT APPROVED</u>, you will be required to make corrections and resubmit via ePlans.

# **STEP THREE – INSPECTIONS AND CO**

- □ **POST YOUR PERMIT** in a box, on-site and visible. If your permit or approved plan is not posted in the box, your inspection will not proceed. If you deviate from your original plans, you must apply for a Permit Revision, which requires new plan sets, fees, and repeating the process described above
- □ **Inspections:** After you have completed construction, schedule your required building and fire inspections through the Inspection Request Line at **404-371-3010**. You can find out what inspections are required for your project by looking at your orange permit card
- Backflow Inspection: All connections to the County water system must be equipped with backflow prevention devices approved by the County. To schedule a backflow inspection, call 404-687-4075
- Certificate of Occupancy (CO): Once you pass all required inspections, you may obtain your CO from DeKalb Development Services. Send a copy of the front and back of the permit to Developinspections@dekalbcountyga.gov

# Thank you for investing in DeKalb County



Chief Executive Officer

### **DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY**

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# BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATION

Date:		

Building Permit Number		Check Applicable Type:         Non-Residential         Residential         Apartment         Condo Stack Flats         Condo Townhouse         Townhouse Fee Simple						
PROJECT NAME / TENANT NAME / SUBDIVISION NAME			LDP NUMBER			NUMBER OF UNITS		
PROJECT ADDRESS	City	City State			Zip			
Building # Floo	or#	Apt #	Suite #		Lot #			
PROPERTY OWNER'S NAME	<b>i</b>							
Address								
Phone	Mobile	Mobile Fa			Fax			
Email								
APPLICANT   Property Owner   Ter	nant Leasing Commercia	al Space 🛛 Co	ontractor	□ Authorized Age	ent	Architect/Engineer		
Applicant's Name								
Company Name								
Address								
Phone	Mobile	Mobile Fax						
Email								
CONTRACTOR  Property Owner	To Be Determined	□ State of Ga L	icensed Cont	ractor 🛛	Specialty	/ Contractor		
Contractor's Name								
Company Name								
Address								
Phone	Mobile		F	Fax				
Email				icense Number				
Individual / Authorized Agent's State License #			Company's	s State License #	‡ 			

<b>Type of Work:</b>	air 🗆 Fire Damage 🗆 Der	mo 🗆 Exteri	or Work 🗆 Driveway [	□ Other		Estimated	l Cost \$		
Please provide a full description of w	ork:								
Construction Type:  □ IA □ IIA □	〕IIIA □IB □IIB [		V 🗆 VA 🗆 VB	Occupancy Cl	assificatio	on:			
<b>Total Square Footage</b> Include only areas pertaining to this sco	ne of work. This should h	e a combine	<i>enter numbers in o</i>				0		
Finished Floor Area	Area Unfinished Area			Garage			Outdoor Areas		
Primary Structure	Attic				—	Deck			
Finished Basement	Basement		Detached garages req permits	uire separate		Porch Patio			
Indicate additional normits required	to complete this job		Is there a sprink	lor systom?	Sanitar	y Facilities	Elevators		
Indicate additional permits required to complete this job		None	□ Yes □ No					S □No	
# of Stories # Total R	looms	# Bathroo	oms/ Restrooms # Kitchens			# Bedroo	oms		
Exterior Finish Materials			Roofing Materials						
Setbacks:		Impervi	ous Area		I	Lot Size:			
FrontRearLeft	•			Seet)			Easement: 🗆 Yes 🗆 No		
THIS SECTION IS FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL APPLICANTS ONLY ADULT ENTERTAINMENT ESTABLISHMENT means a business or establishment where persons, employees, or patrons appear nude or in such attire, costume or clothing as to expose specified anatomical areas or engage in specified sexual activities, including, but not limited to, adult bookstores, adult businesses, adult motion picture theaters; adult mini-motion picture theaters, adult motion picture arcades; adult video stores, erotic entertainment/dance establishments; escort bureaus, introduction services. "Adult entertainment establishment" shall not include a traditional or mainstream establishment, which means a theater, movie theater, concert hall, museum, educational institution, or similar establishment which regularly features live or other performances or showing which are not distinguished or characterized by an emphasis on the depiction, display, or description or featuring is incidental to the primary purpose of any performance. Is this business an adult establishment as defined above by the DeKalb County Code, or does it offer any form of adult entertainment?									
□ Yes □No									
**Note: Only the Property Owner, applying to move into a commerc Form is completed on behalf of a St	ial space, the tenant n tate of Georgia licensed	nay sign. A d contracto	Authorized Agents n r. Before signing, ple	nay also sigr ease carefully	n, when a read the	n Authorized statements be	Permit Age low.	ent	
l, Print Name		•	r that the information o					ing	
statement is submitted herein to obtain in this application I may be subject to c as a result of t h i s application. I under clearance(s) and/or inspection repo	riminal prosecution and/or stand that I must comply	or immediate / with all Co	e revocation of any Bu unty ordinances and r	ilding Permit o egulations. I h	r Certificat ereby agre	te of Occupancy	y issued		
I further agree that I shall be responsib for all injury or damage of any kind res exonerate, indemnify and save harml claims, litigation, and actions, based u connection with any work performed u	ulting from this work, wh less the County from and pon or arising out of dam	ether from b d against all nage or injur	basic services or additi l claims or actions, an y (including death) to p	onal services t d all expenses persons or pro	o persons s incidenta	or property. I a al to the defense	gree to e of any suc	'n	

**Total Minimum Fees \$245** (\$175 Minimum Permit Fee; \$20 Technology Fee; \$50 Certificate of Occupancy or Certificate of Completion). Some commercial projects require Fire Review & Inspection Fees (\$100 Fire Life Safety Review; \$100 Fire Site Review; \$100 Fire Inspection). Please note that additional fees may apply depending on the type of permit being submitted. Please contact us at (404) 371-4915 for the calculation of fees or refer to our fee schedule located at www.planningdekalb.net.



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Director

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#### BUILDING AND FIRE COMMERCIAL PLANS SUBMITTAL CHECKLIST

404.371.2155 (o)

DeKalbCountyGa.gov

For construction of new buildings, additions, alterations, and repairs of existing and as-built floor plans involving structural changes, occupancy changes, impact upon egress, and impact on fire-resistive construction, or work equal to or greater than \$3000, submit three (3) sets of plans via the ePermits Portal. (www.epermits.dekalbcountyga.gov)

Plans submitted must provide clear and sufficient information applicable to the requirements of the project in order for the plans examiner to conduct a complete review. Plans shall conform with the requirements in this checklist that pertain to the design or as-built condition of the project or space. All plan sets must include a cover sheet, floor plans, life safety plans, site plans, and key plans. Listed below are the items required for commercial plan review.

#### DRAWING SCALE

A. All plans shall be drawn to an indicated scale (1/8" or 1/4" = 1' preferred) on sheets of suitable and uniform size (minimum 11" x 17").

#### **COVER SHEET**

- A. Name of commercial tenant
- B. Project address (include building and suite number)
- C. Scope of Work Narrative
- D. State of Georgia Registered Architect/Engineer/Design Professional Signed, Sealed and Dated Stamp with registration number on all sheets (see requirements in the Registered Architect/Engineer section below), 0.C.G.A. Title 43
- E. Occupancy Classification per NFPA 101 Life Safety Code (LSC), Chapter 6
- F. Occupancy Classification per International Building Code (IBC), Chapter 3
- G. Occupancy Fire-Rated Separation, including rated design assemblies used for structural fire resistance and fire-resistance-rated construction separation of adjacent spaces
- H. Type of Construction
- I. If an automatic sprinkler system is provided, and whether the sprinkler system is required
- J. Allowable Building Area and Height, Proposed Building Area and Height, and actual building area and height, IBC Chapter 5
- K. Calculations for Area Modifications, if applicable, IBC Chapter 5
- L. Occupant Load Calculations per Life Safety Code: Occupancy, Total Occupant Load, include calculations, NFPA 101 Chapter 7
- M. Plumbing Fixture Requirements, Proposed Plumbing Fixture Count, IBC Chapter 29, IPC Chapter 4, including calculations
- N. List the following codes and editions:
- International Building Code (IBC)- 2018 edition with Georgia Amendments
- National Electric Code (NEC) 2017 edition
- International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC) 2018 edition with Georgia Amendments
- International Mechanical Code (IMC) 2018 edition with Georgia Amendments
- International Plumbing Code (IPC) 2018 edition with Georgia Amendments
- International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) 2015 edition with Supplements and Georgia Amendments
- International Residential Code (IRC) 2018 edition with Georgia Amendments
- International Fire Code (IFC) 2018 edition with Georgia Fire Marshal Amendments
- International Swimming Pool and Spa Code, 2018 Edition, with Georgia Amendments)
- Georgia Accessibility Code GAC 120-3-20 1997 edition Link to State ADA <u>https://ada.georgia.gov/helpful-resources/georgia-accessibility-code</u> and
- U.S. Department of Justice A.D.A. Standards for Accessible Design (ADA) 2010 edition Link to USAB https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/adastandards



- National Fire Protection Association 101 Life Safety Code (LSC) 2018 Edition
- Chapter 120-3-3 Rules and Regulations for the State Minimum Fire Standards in Georgia Link to Rules and Regulations: <u>https://www.oci.ga.gov/firemarshal/Rules%20and%20Regulations.aspx</u>
- Link to Georgia Amendments: <u>https://www.dca.ga.gov/local-government-assistance/construction-codes-industrialized-buildings/construction-codes</u>

#### **MEP PLANS**

A. Mechanical, Electrical, and/or Plumbing Plans may be required depending on the scope of work.

#### KEY PLAN

- A. Show proposed space within a building
- B. Show adjoining tenants and identify them by occupancy
- C. Show and identify a complete outline of the area within the scope of work

#### SITE PLAN

- A. Location of project in relation to property lines
- B. Location of project in relation to other buildings onsite, if applicable
- C. Identify parking spaces
- D. Show relative elevations and illustrate driveways, fire department access roads, parking, handicap parking, proximity of structure to other structures, distance of structure from other structures, walkways, ramps, stairs, fences, passenger loading zones, location of electric transformer pads, heat and air conditioning units outside of the facility.

#### **BUILDING CODE COMPLIANCE REVIEW**

- A. Existing vs. new construction
- B. Rated walls
- C. Existing walls/demowalls
- D. Sections and applicable details
- E. Floor/reflected ceiling plans, label and dimension of all spaces
- F. Cross sections, wall sections, and applicable details
- G. Door, window, and finish schedules
- H. Structural plans and fastening schedule, if applicable
- I. Exits
- J. Room use designation
- K. Door Sizes, Corridors, Stairs, Plumbing Fixtures, and Storage Rooms
- L. Total area of work
- M. Use of adjacent spaces

#### PRE-ENGINEERED COMPONENTS

A. If pre-engineered building structural components were used, technical specification will be required with additional detail for verification of code compliance.

#### FIRE & LIFE SAFETY REVIEW

- A. Plan set must include a Life Safety Plan
- B. Show all means of egress
- C. Construction Type, with specified reference to IBC and NFPA 220 (as modified on GAC 120-3-20, NFPA 101 Table 8.2.1.1). Note construction materials and components of the structure on the plans (i.e. load bearing walls, interior walls, columns, etc.).
- D. Capacity (as identified by the authorities having jurisdiction, such as the DeKalb County School Board).
- E. Dimensions of all bathrooms. New construction MUST COMPLY with GA Accessibility Code, 1997, GAC 120-3-20 requirements, and ADA Standards for Accessible Design, 2010 edition. Show clearances, turning circles, elevations of all fixtures.





- F. Indicate class/rating for doors and windows, with UL listing. Indicate door swings, length of halls and corridors, and travel distances to exits.
- G. Location of fire alarm components to include pull stations, horn/strobe units and fire alarm control panel, battery calculations and strobe intensity levels. Fire Alarm Plans MUST be submitted by GEORGIA licensed low-voltage contractor.
- H. Location and power sources for ALL smoke detectors.
- I. Locations of ALL exit signs.
- J. Location of all emergency lighting.
- K. Locations of fire extinguishers (Note size, type and rating).
- L. Location of furnaces and water heaters. If unit is in attic/penthouse, note the location. Note BTU input rating of hot water heaters, and note CFM and BTU of furnace.
- M. Location and type of stove (residential or commercial appliance).
- N. Location of ALL stairs (inside and outside), ramps, and slope of ramps (Ex: 1:12)
- 0. Show building cross section with elevation(s) related to grade.
- P. Location and size of laundry room (number, type residential or commercial appliance).
- Q. Note location of storage room, with type/commodity and height of contents. For high-piled combustible storage, plans MUST contain ALL information required in IFC Chapter 32 (3201.3 Construction Documents).
- R. Indicate location of any powered industrial material handling equipment (Ex: LP Gas or Electric powered forklift trucks, inside or outside)
- S. Location of fixed fire protection devices (Ex: kitchen hood suppression or Sprinkler systems). System design must be done and submitted by GEORGIA licensed fire suppression or sprinkler contractor. Fire systems permits for hoods, sprinklers, and alarms require separate permits.

#### SPECIFICATIONS

Plans shall be accompanied by two copies of specifications

#### **REGISTERED ARCHITECT/ENGINEER**

Submit plans with Architect/Engineer/Design Professional seal, as required for all plans that meet any of the following criteria:

- A. Over 5,000 square feet,
- B. Buildings greater than one story, or
- C. All Assembly, Educational, Institutional, and Residential occupancies (i.e. Healthcare and Adult and Child Daycare facilities

A design professional must stamp all plumbing, mechanical, and electrical plans. Plans marked "Not for Construction" will NOT be accepted for permit review.

#### SUBMITTALS

Submit three (3) sets of the plans and any associated calculations along with two (2) copies of permit application to Plans Review. Incomplete plans/submissions will not be reviewed. You will be notified when the review is complete, approved or disapproved. To expedite the permit process, please be prepared to provide your plan-tracking file number (also called an AP number) via email, call, or in person when requesting information about your project. You can also check the status of your project on our website at dekalbcountyga.gov/permit status.

#### ZONING

For zoning compliance, all plans submitted to Structural Plans Review must also be reviewed. If plans are for new construction, a Site Development permit must be issued before a building permit is issued.



#### FOODSERVICE INDUSTRY

All food service establishments, (FSEs) where food or beverages are prepared and/or packaged for consumption, on or off site are required to install, operate and maintain a grease interceptor properly sized by a FOG Evaluation. FSEs include restaurants, carry-out, catering businesses, cafeterias, bakeries, ice cream/ smoothies establishments, liquor establishments, schools, nightclubs and bars, hospitals, clubs/ organizations, churches, hotels, nursing home/assisted living, daycares, grocery stores and business offices with dishwashers. **Change of ownership**, Change of name, and grease trap replacement requires a FOG evaluation on-site **FOG Evaluation Plan Review Requirements** for New Constructions and Remodeling:

- A. Large-scale utility, floor, mechanicals, and plumbing plans with a clear separation between the sewer line and the grease line. All the fresh air fixtures from the food preparation area MUST be directed to the grease line. All the restroom plumbing must be directed to the sewer line. Exterior interceptors must be connected to the FSE's lateral sewer line.
- B. Seating /Serving capacity noted on plans.
- C. Hours of operation per day noted on plans.

For more information call FOG Main Line (404)687-7150 or visit www.dekalbwatershed.com/departments/fog/permit information.htm

Food Service Establishments also must provide the following:

- A. Kitchen plans must also be reviewed by the DeKalb County Board of Health with copies of the Health Department Checklists attached before a building permit can be issued.
- B. Plans must be accompanied by a DeKalb County Letter of Entertainment form. This document is signed and notarized by the owner of the building and by the tenant. It identifies the hours of operation, it identifies whether alcoholic beverages will be served, and it identifies whether entertainment will be provided and what types of entertainment.

#### ADDRESSING

All projects must have a unique address/suite assigned in DeKalb's Geographic Information Systems database for each business. For more information, contact the Department of GIS at 404- 371-2257

#### STATE FIRE MARSHAL

All plans for hospitals, detention facilities, state-owned/operated/occupied facilities, and any building constituting a special hazard per O.C.G.A §25-2-13 must be approved by the Georgia State Safety Fire Commissioners Office prior to submittal of those plans to DeKalb County. To contact the State Fire Marshal, call 404-656-2064.

#### **CONTRACTOR LICENSE**

A State General Contractor license is required to obtain building permit. In addition, a State Trade license is required for all trade permits. (Electrical, HVAC, Plumbing, Low voltage, Sprinkler, Fire suppression hoods and systems, and Fire alarm systems)

#### FEES

Building permit fees for alterations, general repairs, demolition and interior tenant finish are based on \$6.50 per thousand of construction cost, plus \$50.00 for Certificate of Occupancy (CO) and \$20.00 for Technology Fee. For new construction and additions, the fees are calculated using the ICC Building Valuation Data, August 2014 Edition, plus the \$50.00 CO and \$20.00 Technology Fees, and fire fees. The minimum fee for any commercial project is \$445. These fees are due at time of plan submission.

#### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

To access all required forms, additional checklists, and permit guides that explain the building permit process and related requirements, go to <u>www.dekalbcountyga.gov/planning-and-sustainability/forms-and-checklists</u> Revised 04/2025