

Flood-Repair Permits and Inspections Are Required

The Richland County Building Codes and Inspections Department requires that permits be obtained and inspections be approved when making flood damage repairs to a home or business.

We understand that you will want to begin repairs as soon as possible. Please obtain a permit before beginning construction. Having a permit and inspections does provide several things. The two most important are insuring that only licensed contractors are working on your home or business and that it meets code. Also, most insurance companies will require licensed contractors and passed inspections prior to paying for the repairs.

The Building Department will be assessing buildings and homes as expeditiously as possible. Many of the structures will be uninhabitable. Please understand that structures posted as uninhabitable cannot be occupied until this status is changed by the Building Department.

As structures are assessed by County building officials, a database with pertinent information will be posted on the Department's website <http://rcgov.us/devserv/home.aspx> .

If you have repaired your flood damaged home without permits or inspections, NOW is the time for you to take corrective action and apply for a permit for the flood repairs.

Why is NOW a good time to apply for flood-repair permits?

1. In a word: "Safety". The codes are adopted as minimum construction standards to protect your safety, the safety of your family or guests and the safety of future owners.
2. The law requires it. Permits are required by the Building Code, Plumbing Code, Electrical Code and Gas/Mechanical Code.
3. Currently, flood-repair permits are required. Your failure to obtain the required flood-repair permits could prove problematic in settling future homeowner insurance claims.
4. Failure to obtain the required flood-repair permits could also prove problematic in selling or refinancing your home in the future.