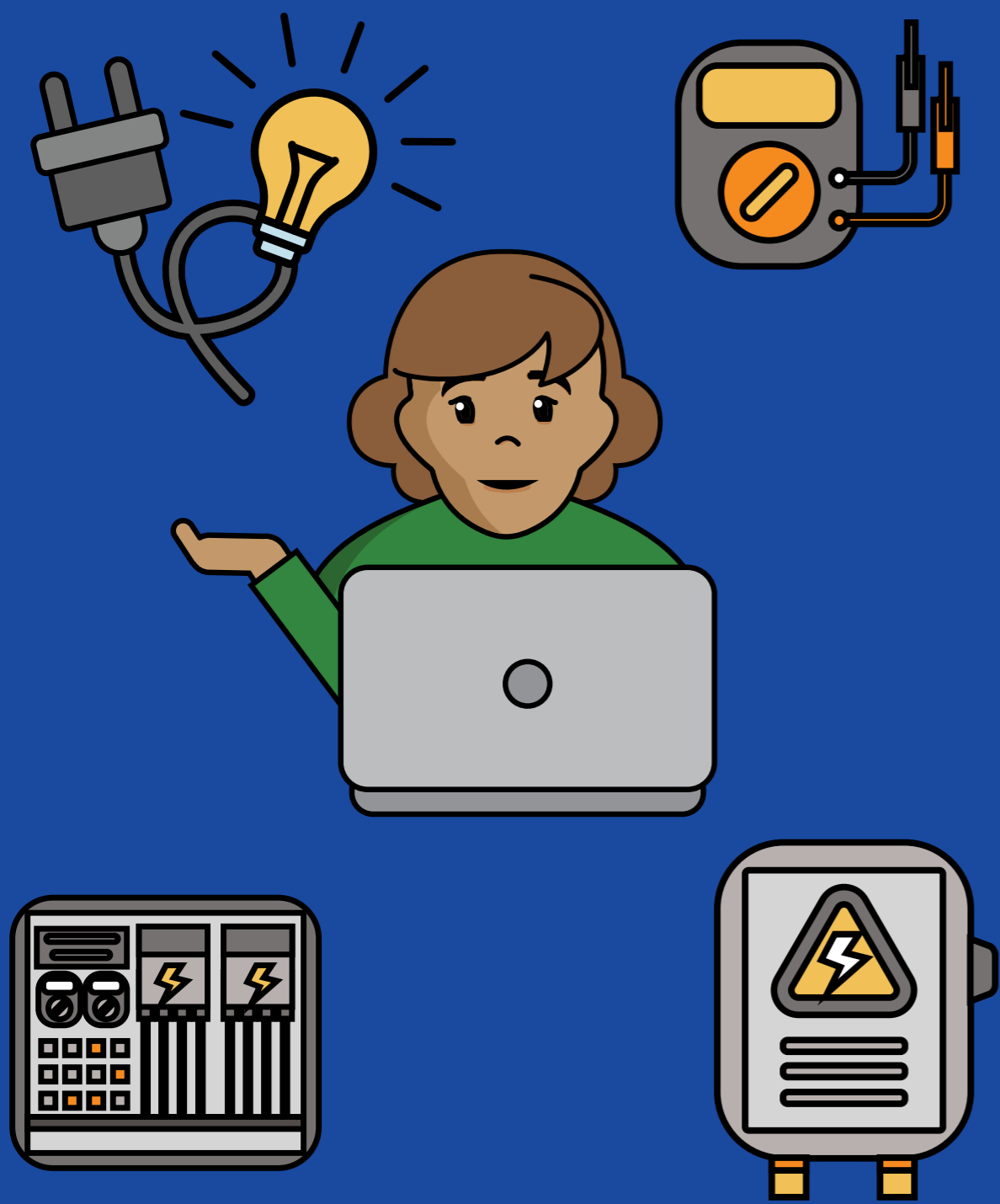


# Electrical Permits & Inspections

## Frequently Asked Questions



### Electrical Permits

#### Do I need an electrical permit?

You need to get a permit for all electrical work, with a few exceptions. The Seattle Electrical Code, 80.50 (B) itemizes the few items which can be replaced without a permit (for example, dimmers, thermostats, water heater, and baseboard heater).

#### What types of electrical permits are available?

There are two types of permits:

- **Over the Counter (self-issued)** - For smaller projects, such as a single-family home or electrical renovations under 5,000 square feet
- **Plan review** - For larger projects

#### As a homeowner, can I apply for a permit?

Yes, if you perform your own work. If you're not doing the work, you must hire an electrical contractor. If you get a homeowner permit and then decide to hire someone, you can add (or delete) a contractor as needed (to do so, contact [otcpermits@seattle.gov](mailto:otcpermits@seattle.gov) or your inspector).

### Electrical Inspections

#### What type of electrical inspections do I need?

There are five basic types of electrical inspections.

- **UFER Ground Inspection** - Before the foundation is poured, and after you have purchased an Electrical Permit, the rebar needs to be inspected.
- **Cover inspection** - Before any electrical work is covered, such as in a wall, ceiling, ditch, or concrete pour, it must pass a cover inspection.
- **Service inspection** - The service is generally the first electrical panel or disconnect on the property. Before energizing a service, it must be inspected.
- **Feeder inspection** - The feeder is a sub-panel (if there is one) or the conductors feeding a sub-panel.
- **Final inspection** - When a project or portion of the project is complete, and ready to be inspected.

#### Can I schedule an inspection for today?

Yes. If you schedule an inspection before 7:00 a.m., it will be scheduled for the same day. If you schedule an inspection after 7:00 a.m., it will be scheduled for the next working day.

#### Can I make an inspection appointment for a specific time?

No. You can get a two-hour window by calling your inspector between 7:00 and 8:00 a.m. on the day of your inspection. Call (206) 684-8950 to be transferred to your inspector, or find your inspector's phone number on our district map: [www.seattle.gov/sdci/inspections/electrical-inspections](http://www.seattle.gov/sdci/inspections/electrical-inspections).

### How do I contact SDCI for electrical issues?

You can find much of the information you need on:

The Seattle Services Portal Help Center  
<https://seattlegov.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/>

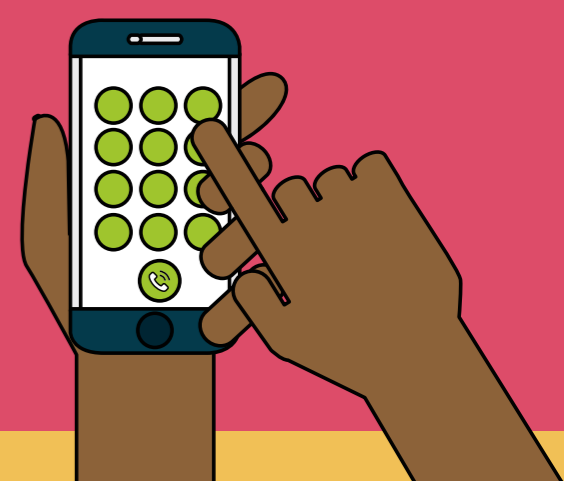
The SDCI website  
[www.seattle.gov/sdci](http://www.seattle.gov/sdci)



If you still need help, you can contact:

Our permit specialists  
[OTCPermits@seattle.gov](mailto:OTCPermits@seattle.gov)

Electrical services staff  
(206) 684-8950



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# How Do I Get an Electrical Permit?

You will need to register for an account in the Seattle Services Portal, <https://cosaccela.seattle.gov>. Your account will let you apply for permits, pay fees, schedule inspections, and check for inspection results.

Follow these instructions to get a **homeowner's** electrical permit:



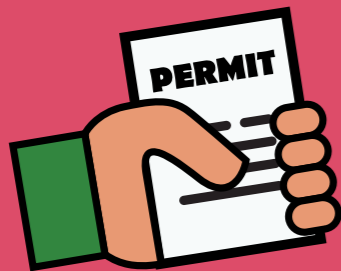
1. Log into the portal
2. Under Create New, click on Permits-Trade, Construction, and Land Use
3. Click on Trade Permits
4. Select Electrical Permit: Over the Counter
5. Fill in the project address and click Continue Application
6. On the next page fill out only the questions that are relevant to your project
7. Click Continue Application
8. On the next page, Detail Information, fill out all boxes with a red asterisk and the additional boxes that apply to your project
9. If you are a homeowner and you are not using a contractor, click the homeowner affidavit checkbox
10. Click Continue Application
11. On the next page, provide additional information only for the items that apply to your project by clicking Add a Row and selecting from the options
12. On the next page, you can probably skip providing an attachment because this is usually for commercial or larger projects
13. Click Continue Application
14. Review your application summary answers
15. Click on Save for Later or Continue Application if you're ready to check out and pay your initial fees
16. Click Check Out and follow the prompts

**Tip:** If you have a contractor, provide that information.

**Tip:** You only need to provide additional information if it applies to your project. Skip the question if it isn't applicable to your project.

**Tip:** When you get to connections, this could be thought of as devices, like a switch, outlet, or a light fixture. Many categories such as transformers or motors might not apply to you and you should leave that section blank.

**Tip:** If you are required to provide a document, and you think it's a mistake, you may have answered a previous question incorrectly. You may want to go back and edit your answers.



## Questions?

If you need help with your electrical permit application, call our electrical services staff at (206) 684-8950, or email [OTCPermits@seattle.gov](mailto:OTCPermits@seattle.gov).

