

# FAQ

- 1) Can I use alternative building methods such as cordwood, rammed earth, cobb, etc.?  
Yes, we welcome alternative building methods. To start your building project, submit engineered building plans to the building official for review.
  
- 2) Do I need a permit for a pre-built shed?  
Yes and no.  
If the shed is under 200 square feet and you will not be living in it or connecting it to utilities, then you don't need a permit.  
If it is over 200 square feet, or you want to connect electricity or other utilities, then you need a permit.  
Also, if you want to live in the shed, then you need a permit no matter what size it is. (see next question)
  
- 3) Can I live in my pre-built shed? (Graceland, Weather King, ETC.)  
Yes, but only if it is brought up to code. These sheds are not built to the residential safety code standards. If you want to live in a pre-built shed, you will need to make some alterations to meet those safety requirements. Contact the Building Department at 928-337-7527.
  
- 4) Can I install my own solar electric system?  
Yes, but it will need to be installed according to safety standards of the electrical code.
  
- 5) My property is off grid. Do I still need a building permit?  
Yes. Any living quarters, solar electric systems, and *outbuildings over 200 square feet* require a building permit.
  
- 6) Can I live in my RV?  
Yes, but see the next question.
  
- 7) Can I connect my RV to the electric utility?  
Yes, but only if you have an approved septic system installed at the property. Contact the Apache County Health Department at 928-337-7607 with questions about septic systems.

- 8) Do I have to hire a contractor to build my house?  
No, not if you are an owner-builder and only hire employees to help on your building project. But if you contract with a builder to do the job, then that builder must be properly licensed through the Arizona Registrar of Contractors. No matter who builds the house, it must be built to safety code standards.
- 9) Do I need a permit for a manufactured home?  
Yes. A permit is required.
- 10) Can I install my own manufactured home?  
A) No. Arizona state law requires all manufactured homes be installed by a licensed installer.
- 11) What building code does Apache county use?  
2015 IRC for all residential construction; 2015 IBC along with 2015 International Plumbing Code and 2011 national electric code for all other construction.
- 12) How do I schedule inspections?  
Contact 928-337-7527 to schedule all building safety inspections.
- 13) Do my house plans need to be engineered?  
In general, no. Residential plans do not need engineering unless it is a log home or alternate construction methods such as cobb, cordwood, earthbag, ETC.
- 14) How long does it take to get a permit?  
Once all the required submittals are in we have 15 business days to complete the plan review and issue the building permit. But typically it is completed in less than a week, and on smaller project it takes less than two business days.
- 15) After I get my permit, does it ever expire?  
a. Yes, you need to start the building project within 180 days (6 months) and pass at least one inspection every 6 months to keep the permit open.
- 16) How much do permits cost?  
Permit fees are set based on square footage and value of the building.