

**Goodhue County**  
**Land Use Management Department**  
**Building Permit and Inspections**  
**Goodhue County Government Center**  
509 West Fifth Street ♦ Red Wing ♦ Minnesota ♦ 55066  
Telephone: 651/385-3114 ♦ Fax: 651/385-3106  
[www.co.goodhue.mn.us](http://www.co.goodhue.mn.us)

## **The Minnesota State Building Code, Building Permits, and Building Inspections in Goodhue County**

### **Minnesota State Building Code**

Goodhue County has adopted the Minnesota State Building Code. The State Building Code governs the construction, reconstruction, alteration, and repair of buildings and other structures. (MNSS 16B.59)

### **Purpose of the Code**

The purpose of the Code is to provide minimum standards to safeguard life and limb, health, property, and public welfare by regulating and controlling the design, construction, quality of materials, use and occupancy, location, and maintenance of all structures and equipment specifically covered by the Code within a jurisdiction that adopts and enforces the Code. (Minnesota Rules 1300.0030) The Code protects life safety, and it protects a building's structural integrity. The Code is designed to minimize the effects of floods, high winds, and snow loads, thereby increasing a building's resistance to the elements. The Code ensures that a building will be accessible by people with disabilities. The Code reduces energy costs by requiring that buildings meet minimum standard for insulation.

### **Scope of the Code**

The Minnesota State Building Code applies to the construction, alteration, moving, demolition, repair, and use of any building, structure, or building service equipment... (Minnesota Rules 1300.0040)

### **Administration of the Code**

Minnesota State Statutes require that a *Certified Building Official* administer the Building Code. The County Building Official administers the State Code in the 21 unincorporated townships of Goodhue County. By contractual agreement, the County Building Official also administers the State Building Code for some of the cities in the County. The Building Official is solely and ultimately responsible for all aspects of Code administration. The County Building Official is part of the County Land Use Management Department which is located in the Goodhue County Government Center in Red Wing.

### **Building Permits are Required**

Except as specified in Minnesota Rules 1300.0120, projects covered by the Building Code require a building permit. Permits are required to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish, or change the occupancy of a building or structure; erect, install, enlarge, alter, repair, remove, convert, or replace any gas, mechanical, electrical, plumbing system, or other equipment. Carpeting, wallpapering, and painting typically do not require building permits. For specific projects and circumstances, the County Building Division can answer questions about requirements for a permit.

### **Other Regulations**

Other regulations that are not a part of the Minnesota State Building Code may affect building construction. Among these regulations are zoning regulations and restrictive covenants. Zoning regulations are local rules that regulate the type of use allowed in various districts, the size and height of buildings, the location of structures on property, parking requirements, fences, lot sizes, and so forth. Restrictive covenants are private agreements between property owners. County or City Zoning approval is submitted to the Building Official with the application for a Building Permit.

## **Building Permit Applications**

Goodhue County Building Permit Applications are available at the County Land Use Management Department, City Halls, from Township Clerks, and on line at [www.co.goodhue.mn.us](http://www.co.goodhue.mn.us). Applications for permits are reviewed by County Zoning staff, by County Environmental Health staff, by County Soil and Water Conservation District staff, and by County Building staff.

## **Building Permit Submittals**

Typical submittals for residential building permits include the Township or City Zoning Approval, a site plan or plot plan, two complete sets of detailed, final construction drawings, and the completed County Building Permit Application. Additional submittals may include a Contractor Waiver, manufacturer specifications, engineering calculations, soil reports, and other data as may be requested.

## **Building Permit Fees**

Permit fees defray the direct and the indirect costs of administering the State Building Code. Fees are based on a project valuation that is determined by the project size, the construction type, and the use or occupancy of the work being performed. The determination of project valuation is made by the Building Official. The valuation shall include the total value of all construction work including materials and labor, as well as all finishing work, painting, roofing, electrical, plumbing, heating, air conditioning, elevators, fire extinguishing systems and any other permanent equipment. Fees are in accordance with the fee schedule adopted by Goodhue County.

## **Permit Issuance**

Only the Building Official may issue a Building Permit. Making application for a permit does not mean that construction may begin. Obtaining zoning approval does not mean that construction may begin. Prior to beginning construction, a permit must be issued. When the Building Official finds that the project described in a permit application, the plans, specifications, and other data submitted, all conform to the requirements of the Minnesota State Building Code and to other pertinent laws and ordinances, and that all required fees have been paid, the Building Official will issue a permit to the applicant. Depending on the scope of the project, allow at least fifteen days for the reviews and permit processing. After a permit is issued, it will be mailed to you or it will be available for pick up. You will receive a copy of the permit application with the Building Official's signature of approval, a Permit Card/Inspection Record, a description of required inspections, and the "Field Copy" of the approved construction plans. The approved field copy of the plans and the Permit Card/Inspection Record must be onsite and available for all inspections.

## **Project Inspections**

All construction or work for which a permit is required is subject to inspection by the Building Official and all such construction or work shall remain accessible and exposed for inspection purposes until approved by the Building Official. It is the duty of the permit applicant to cause the work to remain accessible and exposed for inspection purposes. The person doing the work authorized by a permit is required to notify the Building Official that work is ready for inspection. (Minnesota Rules 1300.0210) When the work is ready for inspection, call the Land Use Management Department to schedule the inspection. Please allow at least one working day for completion of the inspection.

## **Certificate of Occupancy**

After the project passes a final inspection, the Building Official may issue a Certificate of Occupancy. Successful completion of the final inspection and/or a Certification of Occupancy is required prior to use of occupancy of a project or structure.