



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

701 OCEAN STREET, 4TH FLOOR, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
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Over the Counter Permits and Express Plan Check

The Planning Department is providing over the counter permits and express plan check services. This service is available Monday-Thursday 8:00 am -11:30 am and 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm.

Note: Some projects located in the coastal appealable area may not be eligible for this type of processing.

Over the Counter Permits:

- Reroofs, window change outs, siding, sheetrock, small remodels with no alteration of walls. SRA-High and SRA- Very High to comply with [Wildland Urban Interface](#).
- *Residential Decks (less than 30 inches above grade, requires a site plan and zoning.)
- Electrical (Service upgrades, repairs, residential rewiring, septic pumps, etc.)
- Plumbing (Water heaters, re-piping, fixture replacement, repairs, etc.)
- Mechanical; Furnaces, Air conditioning units, wall heaters, wood stoves, ducting, etc. Energy compliance documents required for alterations to mechanical systems.
- [Simplified Solar Photovoltaic systems](#)
- [Electrical Vehicle Charging Systems](#)
- Demolition (Not Commercial)
- Special Inspections

Express Plan Check:

Plan checks completed within 30 days or less, depending on current workload .

- *Small sheds, gazebos, trellises, patio covers, sunrooms, greenhouses less than 500 sq. ft.
- *Decks over 30" above grade.
- *Residential remodels not more than 500 sq. ft. with altered walls.
- Residential roof mounted photovoltaic ([PV systems](#)). *Residential ground mounted PV systems.
- Solar roof mounted hot water systems. *Solar ground mounted hot water systems
- *Small residential additions not more than 250 sq ft that do not require a soils report.
- Small tenant improvements not more than 1,500 sf with no structural alterations, no change of occupancy or increased occupant load, and includes only minor mechanical, electrical and/or plumbing alterations. These applications must be submitted as [eplans](#) .

This is how it works:

- If plans are required then you must provide a minimum of 3 complete sets.
- If your project is on septic and your footprint is increasing or there's a bedroom being added you must show the septic system on the site plan.
- Pay with cash or check, or credit card. You will pay two fees: the submittal fee and then the issuance fee when your plans are approved.
- Increases in the scope of work will require an additional permit.

***If in a coastal area or project is multi-family, a zoning and/or plan check review is required.**

Please note that if your project is located in a FEMA Flood Zone (A, AE, AO, AH, V, or VE), you must submit the substantial improvement forms found in "[Environmental](#)" in order to obtain your permit.