



Our offices will be
CLOSED
on
Monday, June 19th
in observance of



June 18, 2023



Outdoor Water Conservation

Did you know as much as 50% of the water used outdoors is wasted from inefficient watering methods?

The summer season is the time of the year where we consume the most water through outdoor usage. We have all been told to turn off faucets when we brush our teeth and to regularly inspect indoor fixtures for any leaks as part of water conservation initiatives. Similarly, to conserve outdoor water usage, there are a few steps you can take to use water efficiently.

WHEN: The optimal time to water lawns and other plants is in the early morning or evening. Avoid watering in the middle of the day when much of the water will evaporate before hydrating any plants.

HOW OFTEN: Be conscious of the local weather conditions and time your watering system accordingly. A rule of thumb to go by is that lawns only need up to one inch of water per week.

HOW LONG: Pooling water is a major indicator that overwatering is occurring. Turn off sprinklers if water begins to pool and keep in mind that most plants use less water than turf grass.

WHAT ELSE: Alternative methods of watering plants are available. Consider capturing rainwater using a rain barrel or cistern. These water harvesting techniques not only conserve water but can also reduce your water bill. For more information on outdoor water conservation, please visit the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) website at www.epa.gov.

Simple Things We Can All Do

- Step on it:** Step on the lawn: if the grass springs back, it doesn't need water.
- Leave it long:** Longer grass promotes a more drought-resistant lawn, reduced evaporation, and fewer weeds.
- Take a sprinkler break:** Grass isn't really meant to be bright green in the summer.



Thinking of Starting a Home Improvement Project?

With spring in full swing and summer right around the corner, many homeowners will be starting home improvement projects. With that in mind, the City of Hutchins Building Department wants to remind homeowners that many projects will require permits and inspections. While not an all-inclusive list, below is a helpful guide to whether or not you will need a permit for your project.

When do I need a Residential Building Permit?

A building permit is required for all new construction and additions. Building permits are also required for the following projects:

1. Interior remodeling/alternations that involve structural changes or changes to the means of egress (the exit path from any point in the residence including stairways, ramps, exterior exit balconies, hallways and doors).
2. New driveways, (public) drive approaches and sidewalks.
3. Exterior decks not exceeding 200 square feet and where the deck surface is not more than 30" above grade.
4. Swimming pools, spas and hot tubs that hold at least 24" of water.
5. Accessory structures (such as detached garages, carports, greenhouses, and storage sheds) over 1,000 square feet in area.
NOTE: If the accessory structure is less than 1,000 square feet and accessory to other than a single-family dwelling (such as a duplex or townhouse) a building permit is required.
6. Building permits are required for electrical, plumbing and HVAC systems installation, replacement or alternation.

What work does not require a Permit?

1. Exterior decks less than 200 square feet with a floor surface 30 " or less above grade.
2. Storage buildings less than 200 square feet in size.
3. Interior remodeling and alternations that do not involve structural changes or changes to the means of egress.
4. Minor repairs of roof covering, installation of aluminum or vinyl siding, and replacement of windows (if no structural framing changes are made).

What are the Benefits of a Building Permit?

The building permit review and inspection process will ensure that your project meets minimum standards of safety as specified in the International Residential Code. Building permits are also reviewed for compliance with City of Hutchins Zoning regulations,

Once a permitted project is completed, the Building Department will maintain a record of the plan review and all inspections for the life of the building. When properties are sold, potential buyers often contact the Building Department to see if permits have been issued for construction or alternations. A building permit will protect the value of your investment.

How do I get a Building Permit?

Please contact the City of Hutchins Building Department at 972-225-6121 x 110, and we will be happy to assist you and answer any questions you may have.

Upcoming Events...

- June 2..... Summer Reading Kickoff
- June 5..... City Council Meeting 6:30 pm
- June 6..... Park Board Meeting 6:30 pm
- June 15 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting 6:00 pm
- June 19 City Council Meeting 6:30 pm
- June 20 Atwell Public Library Board Meeting 6:30 pm



Join us **Friday, June 2, 2023 at 4:00 PM** for the **Summer Reading Kickoff**, and pick up your Summer Reading Log. The Atwell Public Library's 2023 Summer Reading Program is from June 1- July 27, 2023. The reading challenge and prizes are open to children, families, and adults this year! Kid's crafts, games, and activity days will be hosted through July. For more information follow the library's webpage, Instagram, Facebook, or contact Olivia Daniels, Librarian, at AtwellLibrary@cityofhutchins.org, 972-225-4711.

