

## **Why do I need those road permits?**

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Aside from the fact that state and local laws require them, practical reasons involve "notice" for work on a public road.

The County is responsible to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the traveling public. They must also protect your investment in the infrastructure. The County Engineer is charged with making sure all this happens. The permit process gives him the needed information to do so.

There is some inherent liability to both the County and the permittee when work is allowed on public property. The permit process allows the County Engineer to review the proposed work and set conditions to do the work. These conditions generally deal with public safety, physical location of the work, materials to use, and how repairs are made.

An example is a request for a driveway for a new home. The County Engineer will look at a number of things. What will its effect be on drainage? Will the runoff from the driveway cause a problem on the road or the neighbor next door? Does there need to be a culvert installed? Can you see down the road both ways (sight distance) for safe entrance onto the road? Is the new road going to be too steep to stop on with winter snow and ice? Will the work change the county road some way? The Engineer may even have a check list of things for you to think about.

You can obtain a permit application from your County's Public Works Department and/or County Road Engineer's office. These permits may also be available in packets of information from your county Building and Planning office. Some counties charge fees and some do not. If you are thinking about a project that may affect a county road, ask your County Engineer early to help the process along!

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Questions about this article, or any of the series, or on other topics related to County Roads, may be directed either to your County Engineer, or to Al King, P.E., County Road Administration Board, Olympia, at [Al@CRAB.Wa.Gov](mailto:Al@CRAB.Wa.Gov).