



Permits & Inspections
Division
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PERMITS & INSPECTIONS

Permits & Inspections is a Division of the Department of Planning & Development Services

STORM SHELTER STANDARDS

This is a list of minimum design standards for storm shelters and are intended to be used as a guide. They include, but are not limited to:

- Maximum size allowed without an engineer seal/stamp is 10' x 10' or 100 square feet;
- Any span over 10' requires an engineer seal/stamp;
- Minimum ceiling height is 7'6";
- All joints must be keyway;
- Walls must be a minimum of 8' of concrete; or,
- 8' Concrete Masonry Units (CMU) can be used with each cell filled and vertical #5 re-bar every two feet;
- Concrete must meet a minimum of 3,000 PSI;
- Minimum concrete coverage of re-bar is 2 ½" clearance on the soil side;
- Re-bar must meet a minimum of grade 60;
- Waterproofing requirements must conform to standards set in the **2015 International Residential Code, Chapter 4, Section R406**;
- Cannot be used as a bedroom;

For a full list of requirements refer to the **ICC/NSSA 500 Standard for the Design and Construction of Storm Shelters**.

To apply for a building permit you will need to provide the following:

1. Bring a completed Building Permit Application (which can also be found on our website under *Departments and Services – Building Permits and Inspections – Information, Handouts and Forms*)
2. Provide a site plan that is to an architect or engineer scale to include the setbacks.
3. Provide a detailed construction list of all materials to be used. Depending on the scope of the project, the plans/drawings may require an engineer seal/stamp.

If you have need any additional information or have any questions, please come see us, or contact us via phone at 325-657-4210, option #1. We are more than happy to assist you in any way that we can.