



# Solar Handout

1245 West Hwy 96 Arden Hills, MN 55112

651-792-7800

[www.cityofardenhills.org](http://www.cityofardenhills.org)

This handout is intended only as a guide and is based in part on the 2020 Minnesota State Building Code, Arden Hills City ordinances, and good building practice. While every attempt has been made to insure the correctness of this handout, no guarantees are made to its accuracy or completeness. Responsibility for compliance with applicable codes and ordinances falls on the owner or contractor. For specific questions regarding code requirements, refer to the applicable codes or contact your local Building Department.

## **BUILDING PERMITS**

Building permits can be obtained from the Building Department by filling out and signing an application and submitting your building plans. Building permits are typically processed within 5 -10 business days after receiving a complete set of plans. **If your application is incomplete it will delay your project.**

## **GENERAL NOTES**

1. The stamped "Approved" plan and the Inspection Record Card shall be made available to the inspectors during their inspections. As per MN2020 IRC, in accordance with 1300.0120 Subp. 13, the building permit shall be kept on site of the work until the completion of the project. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 15.41, It shall be posted in a prominent location in the area of construction. If the card is not on site, the inspection may be failed as per Subp. 12
2. Separate permits are required when installing electrical wiring, heating equipment, or plumbing fixtures. Contact the Building Inspection Division for information regarding plumbing and heating, or call the contracted electrical inspector for electrical information.
3. Call the Building Inspection Division between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to arrange for an inspection. Please provide the permit number with your request. Call the contracted Electrical Inspector between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. to arrange for an inspection. Please provide the permit number with your request.

## **PERMIT EXPIRATION**

If you suspend work on your project for more than 180 days since permit issuance or your last inspection, your permit will expire. If unforeseen circumstances delay construction, contact the Building Department **before** your permit expires.

## **INSPECTIONS**

1. Call 24 hours in advance or preferably 2 days in advance.
2. Have address, permit number, and type of inspection (ex. footing) ready.
3. Let the inspector know if you wish for an exact time and they will try to accommodate you.
4. If work is approved, the inspector will sign the permit card and you may proceed with the next step.
5. Final Inspection - All work is complete plans and permit card on-site.
6. If corrections are noted, a correction notice will be left on the site. If a re-inspection is required it will be noted on the notice.

Please do not hesitate to call the Building Department at 651-792-7800. If necessary, we will be happy to meet with you on the site to help resolve any concerns or problems.

**Are building permits required to install solar PV systems?** Solar photovoltaic (PV) installations must comply with the Minnesota State Building Code. A building permit is required for all solar PV installations. Ground mounted solar arrays are permitted as an accessory structure in the R-1, R-2, and R-3 Zoning Districts.

**Is a structural engineer required to design the roof support of roof-mounted solar PV systems?** Roof-mounted solar PV systems add weight and snow-drift loads to the roof. The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) and Minnesota Department of Commerce developed a standardized load table to help determine if the roof structure of wood-framed buildings is sufficient to handle the additional weight of solar PV systems (see <http://mn.gov/commerce-stat/pdfs/standardized-load-table-report.pdf>). Permit applicants can use the standardized load table report to demonstrate structural compliance without consultation by a structural engineer.

**Which solar PV system installations need to comply with Section 3113 of the 2020 Minnesota State Building Code (Minnesota Rule 1305)?** Buildings classified as IRC-1, IRC-2, IRC-3, and IRC-4 are regulated by the Minnesota Residential Code (Minnesota Rule 1309). When the 2012 International Residential Code (IRC) was adopted to serve as the model code for the 2015 Minnesota Residential Code, Chapter 23 "Solar Energy Systems," was intentionally deleted.

**What are some of the more common provisions contained in Section 3113 of the Minnesota State Building Code?** Solar PV arrays are limited to 150 feet in any direction. Residential buildings, such as apartments, are not required to have an access pathway around the perimeter of the building but must have 3-foot-wide pathways from the eave to ridge or peak if the roof slope exceeds a 2:12 pitch. Review this section for specific access pathway requirements. There are no access requirements for residential buildings with roofs having slopes less than a 2:12 pitch.

**Photovoltaic systems. Photovoltaic systems shall be designed and installed in accordance with Sections IBC 1505.8, 1511, 1509.7 and NFPA 70. Inverters shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 1741. Systems connected to the utility grid shall use inverters listed for utility interaction manufacturer's installation instructions.**

**Equipment listings. Photovoltaic panels and modules shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 1703. Inverters shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 1741. Systems connected to the utility grid shall use inverters listed for utility interaction.**

**Are other permits required?** Electrical permits are required for solar PV systems 2020 IRC, Section 907 Solar photovoltaic.

NOTE: For specific code requirements, please contact the Building Inspection Division. Questions regarding design and cost should be referred to a professional builder or architect.  
Building Inspector: 651-792-7818