

# Media Release

For general release

5 May 2014

## Building or renovating? You'll probably need a permit

If you're thinking about building or renovating, then chances are you'll need a building permit.

According to the Victorian Building Authority, nearly anything built requires a building permit before work can start.

The VBA's Chief Executive Officer, Prue Digby, said "the building permit is more than just paperwork. It signifies that your building is built to code.

"Building permits are issued by a council or private building surveyor whose job it is to ensure your work and building plans comply with building regulations," she said.

According to the VBA, a building permit ensures:

- builders carrying out the work are registered and have insurance
- the right plans are prepared to construct your building
- a review of your building plans occurs
- key stages of the work are inspected
- your building is independently assessed as suitable for occupation.

A building permit also specifies a period of time in which building work must start and finish.

Ms Digby said that "while having a registered builder is important to construct your building, it is the building surveyor who will ensure that your work meets the building regulations. The building surveyor issues the building permit, carries out building inspections and issues occupancy permits or a certificate of final inspection when the work is completed."

Applying for a building permit requires you to:

- find a suitable building surveyor - this might be your local council's building surveyor or a private building surveyor in your region
- check the building surveyor is registered by visiting [www.vba.vic.gov.au](http://www.vba.vic.gov.au)
- appoint the building surveyor of your choice
- pay the appropriate fees for the building permit to your building surveyor
- your application for a building permit will require at least three copies of drawings, specifications and allotment plans.

While some minor work is exempt from a building permit, it is important to do your research by contacting your local council or private building surveyor. For further information, visit [www.vba.vic.gov.au](http://www.vba.vic.gov.au)

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