



## CITY OF FOSTER CITY

Community Development Department

*Building Division*

610 Foster City Blvd, Foster City, CA 94404

Phone: 650-286-3227 | Email: [building@fostercity.org](mailto:building@fostercity.org)

# WHEN IS A BUILDING PERMIT NOT REQUIRED?

**The following improvements are exempt from building permits:**

1. Movable cases, counters and partitions not over 5 feet 9 inches in height.
2. Water tanks supported directly upon grade so long as the capacity of the tank does not exceed 5000 gallons and the ratio of height to diameter or width does not exceed two to one.
3. A clothes washer grey water system (Note: Any other type of grey water system requires a plumbing permit).
4. Painting and papering (homes in a Homeowners Association (HOA) check with your HOA for approved colors).
5. Minor repairs to existing interior plaster or interior drywall, except when part of a fire-resistive assembly such as any wall or ceiling between dwelling units.
6. Prefabricated swimming pools accessory to a Group R. Division 3 Occupancy in which the pool walls are entirely above the adjacent grade as long as the capacity of the pool does not exceed 5000 gallons.
7. Installations or replacement of floor coverings except in bathrooms and at water closets.
8. Replacement of doors (not including frame or size change and excluding sliding glass doors and garage doors), provided they are not required to be fire-resistive assemblies (i.e. door from garage to house; corridors; etc.)

**Although the following improvements are exempt from building permits, a permit from the Planning/Code Enforcement Division is still necessary. Call (650) 286-3225 or email [planning@fostercity.org](mailto:planning@fostercity.org) for additional information:**

1. One-story detached accessory buildings including sheds, gazebos and playhouses with a floor area less than 120 square feet.
2. Fences no higher than seven (7) feet in height.
3. Platforms, walks and driveways, when not a part of an exit, and not more than 30 inches above grade or story below.
4. Retaining walls not over 4 feet in height measured from the top of the wall to the bottom of the footing unless supporting a surcharge or impounding Class I, II or III-A liquids.

**ALL IMPROVEMENTS NOT LISTED REQUIRE A PERMIT FROM THE CITY OF FOSTER CITY**