



FINISH BASEMENT

Notice: This handout is intended only as a guide to the subject matter covered herein and is based in part on the 2007 Minnesota State Building Code. 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 Minnesota Building Code or contact your local Building Department at the number listed below

CHECK LIST:

_____ One completed building permit application form, including site address, owner's name, and daytime phone number. The permit shall also include the type of work, square footage, estimated completion date, estimated valuation of complete project, and applicant's signature and printed name.

_____ Two copies of floor plans showing proposed layout and materials. Plans shall be drawn to scale.

The floor plans shall also show the following:

- _____ Location of the lower level or basement exterior walls
- _____ Location of all existing and proposed interior walls
- _____ Label existing and proposed rooms
- _____ Location and sizes of windows and doors
- _____ Wall construction and materials
- _____ Location of existing and proposed plumbing fixtures, furnace and water heater
- _____ Location of stairway, fireplaces, etc...
- _____ Location of smoke detector(s)

The cross section plan shall show the following:

- _____ Proposed finished ceiling height
- _____ Wall, floor and ceiling finish materials
- _____ Existing and proposed insulation and vapor barrier

REQUIRED INSPECTIONS:

1. **Framing/Insulation/Plumbing Rough-In/Heating Rough-In:** To be made after all framing, installation, ductwork is in place and the rough plumbing system is in place and the State Electrical Inspector has completed an electrical rough-in inspection.
2. **Final:** To be made when work is complete and after the State Electrical Inspector has approved a final electrical inspection.

GENERAL CODE REQUIREMENTS

- * Bottom plates of proposed walls shall be of approved type or treated wood.
- * Properly sized beams and headers must be used in structural bearings conditions.
- * Specify intended sizes of such beams and headers on plans.
- * Open side(s) of stairways more than 30" above the floor shall be provided with a guardrail having intermediate rails spaced less than 4" apart.
- * Enclosed usable space under stairs must be protected on the underside with ½ " thick gypsum wallboard (sheetrock).
- * A smoke detector shall be installed in all bedrooms and hallway giving access to the bedrooms. These detectors shall be interconnected.
- * Each bedroom and basement or finished area shall be provided with an escape or rescue window having:
 1. A minimum net clear openable area of not less than 5.0 square feet for grade floor openings.
 2. A minimum net clear openable area of 5.7 square feet for any openings other than grade floor.
 3. A minimum net clear opening height dimension of 24 inches.
 4. A minimum net clear opening width dimension of 20 inches.
 5. A finished sill height of not more than 44 inches above the floor.
- * Foam plastic (rigid) insulation shall be protected on the interior by not less than ½" thick gypsum board.
- * Fiberglass insulation must be covered on the interior by not less than a 4 mill thick fire retardant vapor barrier.
- * Each water closet stool shall be a 1.6 gallon flush volume and shall be located in a clear space not less than 30 inches in width and have a clear space in front of the water closet stool of not less than 21 inches.
- * Each bathroom shall be provided with an openable window or a power exhaust fan which vents to the exterior.
- * The minimum permitted ceiling height in habitable rooms (meaning finished family rooms and bedrooms) is 7 feet. If the ceiling is furred down, a minimum of 7 feet is permitted in not more than 50% of the area of the room. Bathrooms are excluded from the minimum ceiling height.

- * Furnace shall have an unobstructed working space of not less than 30" in front and shall be provided with outside combustion air. Furnaces may not be accessed through, or located in a bedroom.
- * Gas piping: Compression or flared fittings are not approved in concealed spaces. Nail plates must be installed to protect all gas piping and plumbing work.
- * An equal number of return air and supply air shall be attained.
- * Dissimilar materials must not be attached directly to each other, i.e., PVC must not be glued to ABS waste and vent.
- * An approved anti-scald (thermostatic or pressure- balancing type) faucet must be installed in new shower or shower/bath installations.
- * A maximum of 3 plumbing fixtures allowed on a ½ inch water supply line.

NOTE: The above information outlines general Building Code requirements. The person applying for a permit is responsible for code compliance. Although the Building Inspectors will answer questions of a general nature, they cannot design or advise anything beyond code requirements. Questions regarding design and cost should be referred to a professional builder, contractor, architect or designer.

An Electrical Permit is also required and can be obtained by going the States Electrical Website at www.electricity.mn.us. For Electrical Inspections contact: Paul Hipsag at 763-241-2102 Monday through Friday between the hours of 7am – 8:30am to schedule an inspection.

Please contact the Building Department if you have any questions or concerns at 763-497-3384, ext 103.