

Western Washtenaw Construction Authority

Building and Trade Permits and Inspections

Pole Barns & Accessory Structures

Requirements for permits:

1. Accessory structures to single family homes with less than 200 square feet do not require a permit, but may require zoning.
2. Zoning approval.
3. Site plans showing location of the barn and drain field expansion area and well, along with any other structures on the property.
4. Floor plan showing doors, post location, headers size, direction of trusses or rafters.
5. A cross section of the walls showing all materials being used along with all construction details.

Inspections required:

1. **Footing:** Holes drilled and prior to the post being set. Holes must be 42 inches deep and spoils removed from hole so there is solid bearing.
2. **Final Inspection:** After barn is complete and prior to occupancy.

Electrical:

Any electrical installed in pole barns must have a permit and be inspected.

Mechanical:

Any HVAC work shall have a permit and be inspected, including gas line pressure tests, underground gas lines, propane tank installation, in floor heat, etc.

Agricultural buildings:

Any accessory building used for agricultural purposes (horticulture, floriculture, animal husbandry or storage of farm equipment) may be considered agriculturally exempt. No building permits are required. To claim an agricultural exemption a registration form must be filled out prior to construction and filed with the building department with a copy of the Zoning permit.

Barns used in a commercial enterprise (such as boarding horses, riding arenas open to the public, or retail sales) may not claim an agricultural exemption.

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