



DO I NEED A CONSTRUCTION PERMIT?

Permits are required for many construction activities within the County of San Diego. Please consult this list for common permitting conditions, contact information, and additional resources.

RETAINING WALL



Retaining walls are designed to hold back soil or other materials, creating two different elevations. If you plan to build a retaining wall greater than three (3) feet in height, or a retaining wall of any height that supports additional weight above the wall (for example, a driveway), consult with County Building Services on obtaining a permit as regulated by the California Building Code.

Contact Building Services at (858) 565-5920 or visit <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/bldg.html>

GRADING

Grading involves the movement of sediment to create a level base or specified slope, typically for construction or landscaping. If you plan to grade more than 200 cubic yards of material or excavate (cut) a slope greater than eight (8) vertical feet, consult with County Land Development on obtaining a grading permit as regulated by the County Grading Ordinance.

Contact Land Development at (858) 694-2055 or visit <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/LandDevelopment.html>



CLEARING

Clearing describes the physical removal of native vegetation. This typically requires a permit, unless vegetation is removed within 100 feet of a home at the direction of the local fire district for fire-protection. Permit requirements vary, so consult with County Planning and Development Services (PDS) for information prior to removing vegetation.



Contact the PDS Zoning Information Counter at (858) 565-5981

or visit www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/pds/docs/pds800.pdf

WATERCOURSE



Watercourses, including flowing waterbodies such as rivers, creeks, or streams, often contain environmentally sensitive resources that are under the jurisdiction of local, State, and Federal resource agencies. Before performing maintenance or construction on any watercourse, consult with the County to determine if any permits are required.

Contact the PDS Zoning Information Counter at (858) 565-5981

CONSTRUCTION GENERAL PERMIT (CGP):



Construction activities resulting in land disturbance of one (1) or more acres may require CGP coverage from the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board).

Contact the Water Board at (619) 516-1990, or visit www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/construction.html