

Frequently Asked Questions

1. I can't locate my septic system. Do you have copies of my system on file?
2. Whether or not we have your Individual Sewage Disposal System (ISDS) plans on file depends upon the age of the system. We will probably have them on file if the house has been built or the system upgraded within the past 10 to 15 years. Any systems put in more than 15 years ago will probably not be on file.
3. I'm making some minor repairs to my home. Will I need a permit for that?
4. Application or notice to the code official is not required for ordinary repairs to structures. Such repairs shall not include the cutting away of any wall, partition or portion thereof, the removal or cutting of any structural beam or load bearing support, or the removal or change of any required means of egress or rearrangement of parts of a structure affecting the egress requirements.
5. I'd like to place a trailer or mobile home on my property to be used as a dwelling unit. Is this allowed?
6. The town ordinance specifies that no person shall locate or maintain a trailer coach or mobile home within the town except within a camping area. However, you can store your own camper or trailer on your property. Under very special circumstances, upon receipt of a favorable recommendation from the Building Official, the Town Council may grant permission to temporarily locate a trailer on a lot for living purposes.
7. What can happen if I start and/or complete my building project without appropriate permits?
8. The State's Building Code, which has been adopted by the Town of Hopkinton as part of its Code of Ordinances, specifies that an application shall be submitted to the code official for the following activities, and these activities shall not commence without a permit being issued.
Construct or alter a structure.
9. Construct an addition.
10. Demolish or remove a structure.
11. Make a change of occupancy.
12. Install or alter any equipment which is regulated by this code.
13. Move a lot line which affects an existing structure.
14. To perform any of the above activities without a permit is a violation of the town's ordinances and is subject to substantial fines and penalties.