

Electrical permits are required whenever new electrical equipment or systems are installed. Electrical permits are not required for any electrical installation that meets all four of the following criteria:

1. The installation is to be legally performed by a State of Iowa licensed journeyman or master electrician or by a licensed apprentice electrician under the direct supervision of a licensed journeyman or master electrician.
2. The installation does not involve work within a new or existing switch board or panelboard.
3. The installation does not involve any electrical line-to-ground circuit of more than 30 amperes.
4. The installation does not involve any electrical line-to-ground circuit of more than 277 volts single phase,

Electrical permit is usually done by an electrical contractor performing the installation. There are some exceptions to [Iowa Chapter 103](#) that allow the [Homeowner/Farmer](#) to perform the electrical installation but the other requirements for electrical permits and inspections still apply.

The application for electrical permit is usually done online at [lowaelectrical.gov](http://lowaelectrical.gov) which uses a secured program to accept payment by credit card. This format is available 24 hours a day and the payment and submittal are instantaneous. For those without internet access or who prefer paper forms the [Manual Permit Application](#) can be filled out and submitted by mail with an accompanying check or money order. Naturally, this option is slowed by using the postal service. Contact your area electrical inspector using the Inspector Map and they can assist you with the Manual Permit form.

[Chapter 103 of the Iowa Code](#) allows for homeowners and farmers to do electrical work on their property without the requirement of an electrical license. They merely apply for the Electrical Permit and schedule an Electrical Inspection as their wiring project proceeds. If they have any questions concerning their particular installation, we urge that they contact the [Electrical Inspector Supervisor](#) or view the [Interactive Map of County and State Inspectors](#) for assistance. The scope of work allowed for the homeowner or farmer are slightly different so please take note of the following:

**Homeowner:** The homeowner may do his or her own electrical work only on their existing principle residence that qualifies for the Homestead Exemption for property tax purposes. Their exemption includes any accessory buildings on the property that do not exceed 3000 square feet but does not extend to investment property, business property, rental property, vacation homes, etc. A new home must be wired by an electrical contractor.

**Farmer:** The exemption for the farmer is basically the same as that for the homeowner except that it extends to all agricultural properties that he/she may own and is not limited to 3000 square feet. Any new home or any existing residence other than the primary residence must be wired by an electrical contractor

Permitting/Inspection Questions E-mail: [einspinfo@dps.state.ia.us](mailto:einspinfo@dps.state.ia.us)

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