

Environmental Health/Zoning/E911 - Frequently Asked Questions

How do I get a 911 address?

A building permit generates the 911 address. After a completed building permit is returned to the zoning department, the 911 department will assign a 911 address.

How do I get a 911 address marker?

After the property has been addressed, and the permanent driveway is in place, the 911 department will install a resident address marker.

Is a building permit required in Marion County?

A building permit is required for any permanent structure built in Marion County. There is no charge for agriculture buildings or additions to existing structures.

What permits are required when building in Marion County?

A building permit and a septic permit are both required from the Environmental Health and Zoning department.

What inspections are required by Marion County when building?

A septic inspection is the only inspection done by the Marion County Environmental Health and Zoning Department. Building inspections are not required by Marion County. At the time a building permit is submitted the zoning staff will cover the setback and zoning regulations required by Marion County.

Is Marion County a zoned county?

Yes, Marion County has been a zoned county since 1971. Before you change the use of your building or land it is advised to contact the zoning office and make sure it conforms to the Marion County Zoning Ordinance.

Zoning classification and assessment classification are two separate, and sometimes mutually exclusive, items. These two classification systems have different definitions, operate under different rules, and are administered by different offices. Before making a change in use of your land or building it is advisable to also contact the Assessor's office.

I want to divide my land, what do I need to do?

Contact the Marion County Zoning office to see what will be required in your area. Marion County does have a subdivision ordinance.

How do I get a septic permit?

A percolation test is the first requirement to start a septic permit. The test must be done by a licensed physical engineer paid for by the homeowner. After the test is done the results will be reviewed by the inspector to determine the type of septic system needed. At that time the contractor and homeowner need to contact the environmental health inspector before construction begins. Contractors must call for an inspection of the system at least 48 hours in advance and the permit will be completed by the inspector at that time. Contractors must be certified to do work in Marion County. You need to check with the environmental health department when you choose a contractor to make sure they are certified.

I have a mechanical septic system; do I have to have a certified contractor maintenance agreement?

Yes, a maintenance agreement is a requirement of Chapter 69, Iowa DNR; all mechanical septic systems must have a maintenance agreement at all times and be tested twice year by the certified contractor.

Do I need to test my septic system?

Any surface discharging septic system such as a sand filter or peat filter must be tested by the homeowner once a year. The environmental health department will send out reminders to test the system with directions for testing.

I am selling my home, what do I need to do with my septic system?

Inspections are not mandatory by Marion County but it is advised to have your system to a non-polluting level before you sell your home; approximately 50 to 75% of all buyers or lenders will require an inspection before the closing of the sale. It is better to fix the system before the sale price is final or hold up the closing of the sale.