

FAQ

Construction

Q- When is a building permit required?

A- A building is required prior to any new construction, additions, demolition or change of use to any building. Accessory structures (storage buildings) need not have a permit unless the cost is more than \$1,000.00. Such structure must be located in the rear yard and can be no closer than 5feet from all property lines.

Q- Can I build my own home?

A- Yes, you can be the contractor to build your home, but only one time every two years, any sub-contractor you pay \$ 25,000.00 or more must be a state licensed contractor.

Q- What is the definition of a contractor?

A- A contractor is any person or entity who undertakes to, attempts to, or submits a price or offers to construct, supervise, superintend, oversee, schedule, direct, or in any manner assume charge of the construction, alteration, repair, improve, movement, demolition, putting up, tearing down, or furnishing labor to install material or equipment for any building, highway, road railroad, sewer, grading, excavation, pipeline, public utility structure, project development, housing, housing development, improvement, or any other construction undertaking for which the total cost of the same is \$ 25000.00 or more.

www.state.tn.us/commerce/boards/contractors/index.html

Q- Can I plumb my own home?

A- Yes, you may plumb your own home, but if you hire someone they must be licensed by the State of Tennessee.

www.state.tn.us/commerce/boards/contractors/index.html

Q- What is the penalty if I start construction without a building permit?

A- The penalty is double the permit fee.

Q- If I build a new commercial building what do I have to do to get a building permit?

A- Contact the Codes Enforcement Officer at 865-458-2033.

Property Maintenance

Q- What is the maximum height of grass in the City of Loudon?

A- The maximum is 8 inches, this includes grass or other vegetation commonly recognized as weeds. For more information see [Title 13 of the Municipal Code](#).

Q- What is the penalty if my grass grows taller than 8 inches?

A- A written notice will be mailed or given in person or attached to the property with the information on how to comply if you do not comply you could be written a citation or your grass could be cut by the City of Loudon and a bill be sent to you for the cost plus a 10% administrative fee. If such bill is not paid a lien could be placed on the property in question.

Q- If I rent a house is it my responsibility to cut the grass?

A- Yes

Q- Can I keep cows, pigs, sheep, horses, mules, goats, chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys on my property?

A- Yes, as long as they are 1000 feet from any residence, place of business, or public street, if they are to be kept closer than 1000 feet you must have a permit from the city recorder. To apply, you must submit a letter to the city recorder requesting a permit. To be included in the letter is the type and number of animals and the location. The health officer must then approve the request before a permit can be issued. For more information see [10-102 of the Municipal Code](#).

Q- What type of vehicle is considered a junk vehicle?

A- In short a junk vehicle is any automobile, truck, motorcycle, motor scooter, go-cart, camper, tractor, tractor-trailer, buggy, wagon or earth moving equipment or any part of the same that has missing parts that will not allow it to be used in safe legal manner or any of the above mentioned vehicles that is used for storage.

Q- How soon would a vehicle be considered a junk vehicle?

A- After the vehicle has been located on the property for more than 48 hours.

Q- What do I have to do to keep my junk vehicle?

A- The vehicle must be located inside a building that will not allow the vehicle to be seen from any adjoining property or public way, or fix it.

Q- What happens if I am given a notice to comply with the junk vehicle Ordinance and I do not comply?

A- You will be given a citation to the City of Loudon municipal court.