

Western Washtenaw Construction Authority

Building and Trade Permits and Inspections

Pole Barns and Accessory Structures

Requirements for permits:

1. Site plans showing location of the barn and drain field expansion area and well, along with any other structures on the property.
2. Floor plans showing accessory structures to single family homes with less than 200 square feet do not require a permit but may require zoning.
3. Zoning approval
4. Floor plans showing doors, post location, headers size, direction of trusses or rafters.
5. A cross section of the walls showing all materials being used along with all construction details.

Inspections required:

1. **Footing:** Holes drilled and prior to concrete or the post being set. Holes must be 42 inches deep from finished grade and spoils removed from hole so there is solid bearing.
2. **Final inspection:** After barn is complete and prior to occupancy.

Electrical:

Any new electrical installed in pole barns even if Agriculture exempt and housing livestock must have a permit and be inspected.

Mechanical:

Any HVAC work shall have a permit and be inspected, including gas line pressure tests, underground gas lines, propane tank installation, in floor heat etc.

Agricultural buildings:

Any accessory building used for agricultural purposes (Horticulture, floriculture, animal husbandry or storage of farm equipment) may be considered agriculturally exempt. No building permits are required but there is an agricultural exempt form to be filled out to claim and register an agricultural exemption and must be filled out prior to construction and filed with the building department with a copy of the Zoning permit. Download from Freedom Township>West. Wash. Const. Auth.> scroll down and find the form Registration of Agricultural Exempt Building

Barns used in a commercial enterprise (such as boarding horses, riding arenas open to the public, or retail sales) may not claim an agricultural exemption.

Electrical: Permit is required for all agricultural structures housing livestock

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