



Permits for Construction and Demolition Projects

The following permits are commonly required by the Worcester Fire Department during construction or demolition activities in accordance with the Massachusetts Board of Fire Prevention Regulations (527 CMR 1.00) and Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 148.

1. Rubbish Containers (Dumpsters)

Rubbish containers exceeding an aggregate capacity of **6 cubic yards** require a permit from the Fire Department in accordance with 527 CMR 1.00 §1.12.8.5.

Exceptions:

- Containers holding only noncombustible materials (e.g., scrap metal or concrete)
- Containers removed from the site at the end of each workday

NFPA 241 also requires that all trash chutes be constructed of noncombustible materials or equipped with temporary sprinkler protection.

Fire Department Permit Fee:

\$25.00 per container, plus \$10.00 for each additional container on the same site

2. Hot Work

Hot work activities — including welding, torch cutting, grinding, torch-applied roofing, and torch paint removal — require a permit in accordance with 527 CMR 1.00 §1.12.8.23.

All hot work operations require an on-site evaluation to determine whether a Fire Department detail will be necessary (527 CMR 1.00 §1.12.8.23).

Fire Department Permit Fee: \$50.00

Fire Detail Fee (if required): Budget approximately \$100.00 per hour plus 10% Admin Fee

3. Sprinkler System Shutdown

A shutdown permit must be obtained by a licensed sprinkler contractor for any impairment or shutdown of an existing sprinkler system, standpipe, or other water-based fire protection system in accordance with MGL Chapter 148 §27A and 527 CMR 1.00 §13.1.8.

Additional requirements:

- A mechanical permit from the Building Official is required for modifications or additions to an existing sprinkler system
- New installations require a mechanical permit from the Building Official only

- The Worcester Fire Department must be notified at **(508) 799-1753** whenever a sprinkler or water-based fire protection system is shut down

Shutdowns extending beyond normal working hours (e.g., overnight) require an approved impairment plan.

Sprinkler and standpipe systems in buildings scheduled for complete demolition must remain in service until **48 hours prior to structural demolition.**

Fire Department Permit Fee: \$50.00

4. Temporary Heaters

All fuel-fired temporary construction heaters require a permit from the Fire Department in accordance with 527 CMR 1.00 §1.12.8.4, regardless of fuel type. One permit is required for each heating unit.

Carbon monoxide detection is required in spaces where fuel-burning temporary heaters are used in accordance with 527 CMR 1.00 §16.2.1.10.

5. Fuel Storage

All fuel stored on site — including CNG, LNG, LP gas, propane, acetylene, gasoline, kerosene, diesel, and heating oil — requires a fuel storage permit from the Fire Department in accordance with 527 CMR 1.00 §1.12.8.50

This includes fuel used during construction for generators, heating equipment, vehicles, and power tools.

Fire Department Permit Fee:

\$50.00 per vessel up to 1,500 gallons

Permit fees vary for larger vessels

6. Blasting

The use or storage of explosives of any kind requires a permit in accordance with 527 CMR 1.00 §1.12.8.39.1

Fire Department Permit Fee: \$50.00

Required Fire Detail Fee: Budget approximately \$100.00 per hour plus 10% admin fee

Application Information

Permit applications may be submitted in person at:

Worcester Fire Prevention Office

Room 100

25 Meade Street

Worcester, MA 01610

(508) 799-1822