

Building Department



200 W. Oak Street
Suite 3100
P.O. Box 1190
Fort Collins, CO
(970) 498-7700

Accessory Structures

120 square feet in floor area or less

Revised April 6, 2009

What is an "Accessory Structure"?

Residential or agricultural sheds, playground equipment, pump enclosures and gazebos (may be portable or permanent). These structures must be built to current building code standards.

Contact the Larimer County Building Department for any other structures not mentioned.
970-498-7700

A Building Permit is Required When a Structure ...

- Has an attached porch/overhang that exceeds 24 inches.
- Has utilities added (electric, water, heat).
- Is used for any type of commercial purpose or residential dwelling/cabin.
- Exceeds 120 sq.ft. in floor area, or is greater than one story in height.

For example: A two story structure with each story having 120 sq.ft. in floor area requires a building permit.

120 sq. ft. + 120 sq. ft. = 240 sq. ft.



No Building Permit is Required When a Structure ...

- Is a one-story, detached accessory structure used as a tool and storage shed, playhouse and similar use, provided the floor area does not exceed 120 square feet.
- Has a overhang that does not exceed 24 inches.
- Remains at least 3 feet away from any dwelling.
- Has a maximum eave height of 10 feet or less.
- Meets the requirements of the Larimer County Land Use Code as it relates to setbacks and use.
- Please contact the Larimer County Planning Department to determine your allowed uses, setback distances, or any other concern in the different zoning districts at 498-7683.

Examples: Structures should not be placed on or too close to any property line, stream or river setback, in an easement, or any other location that might be hazardous or create a life/safety concern.