

Private Pedestrian or Vehicular Bridges & Culverts (not in a public right-of-way)

Printed: 02/03/2009



Frequently Asked Questions

Is a bridge a structure?

The current adopted 2006 International Residential Code (IRC) and International Building Code (IBC) define a structure as "that which is built or constructed".

When is a building permit required?

Section 105 of the IRC states any owner or authorized agent who intends to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish or change the occupancy of a building or structure ... shall first make an application to the building official and obtain the required permit.

Is a private bridge on private land exempt?

No. Emergency response vehicles need to be able to get to residences; therefore all standards and permits apply. Foot bridges for public use on private property always require a building permit, no matter the size of the bridge.

Building Requirements

Culverts

Culverts over 30 inches in diameter require a building permit and need to be designed by a qualified Colorado registered engineer.

Bridge repairs

Repairs to existing bridges require a repair permit for all work. All permit applications require stamped, engineered building plans.

Design standards for private vehicular & pedestrian bridges

The Larimer County Engineer advises and the Building Official concurs, that private vehicular and pedestrian bridges must be designed to the following specifications:

- American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials (AASHTO)
[refer to AASHTO HB-17 – Standard Specifications for Highway Bridges, 17th Edition, referenced in the 2006 International Fire Code (IFC), Section 503.2.6 for bridges]
- Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) standard plans

Floodway hydrology or hydraulic design

Contact the Larimer County Engineering Department for hydrology or hydraulic design requirements that may apply to structures proposed in a regulatory flood plain or floodway. At a minimum, bridge structures shall be designed to convey a 10-year flood event.

Irrigation Company Approval

All structures crossing irrigation canals must be approved by the irrigation company. Please contact the irrigation company for approval.

US Army Corps of Engineers

The US Army Corps of Engineers needs to approve all work in or around rivers.

- US Army Corps of Engineers
Denver Regulatory Office
9307 South Wadsworth Blvd.
Littleton, CO 80128-6901
303-979-4120

Cache la Poudre Wild and Scenic River

The US Forest Service enforces the *Federal Cache la Poudre Wild and Scenic River* regulations for any bridge contemplated in or around the Poudre River.

- USDA - Forest Service
Canyon Lakes Ranger District
2150 Centre Avenue, E Bldg
Fort Collins, CO 80526-8119
970-295-6710

Building Permit Application Process

Contact: Tom Garton, Building Official
Building Department
200 West Oak Street – 3rd Floor
P.O. Box 1190
Fort Collins, CO 80521
970-498-7705

1. Larimer County Engineering Department
Ed Woodward
970-498-5705
Contact Ed to discuss flood plain issues and engineering requirements for bridges and culverts.
2. Larimer County Building Department
Submit a building permit application form, including the following documents:
 - Four (4) copies of a plot plan, drawn to scale showing location of the bridge (Plot Plan Handout is available)
 - Two (2) sets of engineered plans, stamped by a qualified Colorado registered engineer, designed to AASHTO Standard HB-17 or CDOT Standard Plans
3. Agency Review & Approval
Building permit applications will be reviewed by County departments for review and approval prior to issuance of the permit.
4. Engineer's Letter (county building inspectors do not inspect bridges)
After the building permit is issued and work completed, a qualified Colorado registered engineer must provide the Building Department a letter with an original wet stamp verifying:
 1. the bridge was inspected during the construction process
 2. the bridge construction was completed pursuant to the approved set of building plans