

Contractor Licensing & Certification

Frequently Asked Questions



1 What trades do not require a license or certification to perform?

- Asphalt Coating and Sealing*
- Cabinetry and Millwork
- Canvas Awning* and Ornamental Iron Installation
- Carpentry
- Caulking
- Concrete forming, placing, finishing, coating*
- Decorative Stone (tile, marble, granite, terrazzo, etc.)
- Fence erection*
- Flooring
- Insulation
- Interior Remodeling (Aesthetic only) See Q 10-11.
- Masonry (permit required only if structural or creates a slab/patio)
- Painting
- Paver Block*
- Paving*
- Plastering and Stucco
- Signs without electric*

* Denotes permits are still required for this work class

2 I have a city license but not a state license or certification. My trade/work class now requires a state license or certification. By what date I am required to obtain the license or certification?

Licenses or certifications must be obtained by July 1, 2023.

3 I had a city license and have a state license or certification for my trade or work class. Do I need to do anything?

As long as your state license/certification is listed on your city EnerGov CSS registration, you do not need to do anything. When you register in CSS as a contractor and submit your state certifications, your licenses or certifications will be validated each time you apply for a permit.

4 I have a state certification, but have not had a city license and I am not registered with the City of Cape Coral. What do I do?

Even though you have a state certification, you must be registered with Cape Coral's EnerGov CSS before you can apply for permits. Please visit our [CSS page](#) to register as a contractor with the City of Cape Coral.

5

How do I register as a contractor with the City of Cape Coral?

On our CSS page, first create an account (please do not create multiple accounts). Step-by-step instructions may be found [here](#). Once your account is created, sign into your new CSS portal. Then, click "Apply," then "BTR and LICENSES," and select your license type. Once we have received and verified your license application, you can apply for permits online via CSS.

6

Do I still need to submit business tax receipts, worker's comp, and liability insurance to keep my registration active and obtain permits?

Yes, you must submit your business tax receipts if your business address is in the City of Cape Coral. You are no longer required to submit insurance or worker's compensation.

7

My trade/work class no longer requires a license or certification. Do I still need a permit?

It depends on the type of work that you are performing. Please refer to the first question in this document to determine if your trade or type of work requires a permit.

8

Do I need a state license or certification for a pool screen enclosure?

Yes, a license or certification is required to install a pool screen enclosure. At a minimum, you must have a Specialty Structure Contractor license or certification.

9

Do I still need a license or certification for a sign WITH electrical?

Yes, you must be licensed or certified by the state as a Sign Specialty Electrical Contractor.

10

What is considered Interior Aesthetic Remodeling?

Interior aesthetic remodeling consists of installing floors, resurfacing existing walls, cabinetry, painting, etc. Work of this scope is not structural, does not require licensing or certification, and does not require a remodel permit.

11

What requires a Remodel Permit?

Any work that changes the existing interior floorplan requires a remodel permit. This includes tearing out and moving any interior walls, even non-structural walls. Plumbing, mechanical, and electrical work related to floorplan changes should be included as part of the remodel scope of work. Otherwise, stand-alone plumbing or electrical work should be submitted as separate permits.

- **Requires a Remodel Permit:** demo of an interior non-structural wall to expand a bathroom vanity, but the shower, tub, and toilet locations remain the same.
- **Requires a Remodel Permit:** adding an interior structural wall to create a new room, including running new electrical for new outlets, and new a/c ducts (trade work is included as part of the remodel)
- **Does NOT require a remodel permit, but DOES require a trade permit:** the size of the bathroom remains the same, but the location of the shower and tub are moving (this would be a plumbing permit only)
- **Does NOT require a remodel permit but DOES require a trade permit:** new electrical is run to the kitchen to add new outlets, and a new bathroom shower pan is being installed. This would require one electrical permit and one plumbing permit (two separate permits).
- **Does NOT require ANY permits:** installing new kitchen cabinets, new countertops, and switching the location of the oven and refrigerator (if no new electrical outlets or breakers are added)

12

What requires a Concrete or Masonry Permit?

Concrete walls, pilings, forming, placing, and finishing require a Structural Concrete permit. Nonstructural concrete slabs (not for foundations) require a Concrete/Paver Slab permit. Concrete resurfacing, sealing, etc., does not require a permit. Masonry only requires a permit if the scope of work is structural in nature or creates a driveway, sidewalk, pad, or patio.

13

Who do I contact with further questions?

Please check out our [EnerGov FAQ page](#). For questions regarding CSS registration or state licensing or certification requirements, email licensing@capecoral.gov or call 239-574-0430. For questions regarding permitting, email permits@capecoral.gov or call 239-574-0546.



*All references to "state license or certification" within this document refer to State of Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation licensure as a certified Division I Contractor, Division II Contractor, Electrical Contractor, or Specialty Contractor.