How to Apply for a Fire Protection Permit

Updated 5/30/25

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Apply

Follow the instructions below to apply for a fire protection permit ("FAL...", "SPR...",).

- 1) If the contractor applying does not already have a free account in our <u>Permit Portal</u>, create one by clicking the "Register Now" link on the portal home screen.
- 2) Log into the Permit Portal.

Note: Be sure to "Allow Pop-ups" on this website for it to function properly.

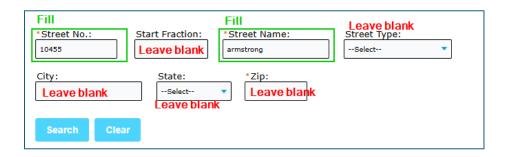
3) Hover over "Apply" and select "Apply for a Building Code Permit".



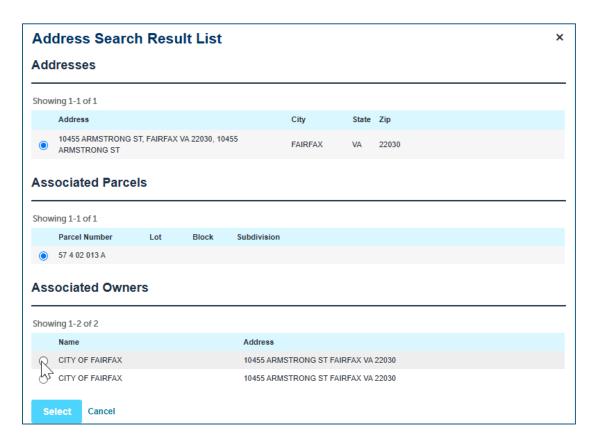
- 4) Read and accept the terms of the disclaimer.
- 5) Select the relevant permit type:



6) Click "Continue Application" at the bottom of the screen to start filling out the application. To enter an address, enter the street number and the street name, and click "Search". Leave the additional fields blank.

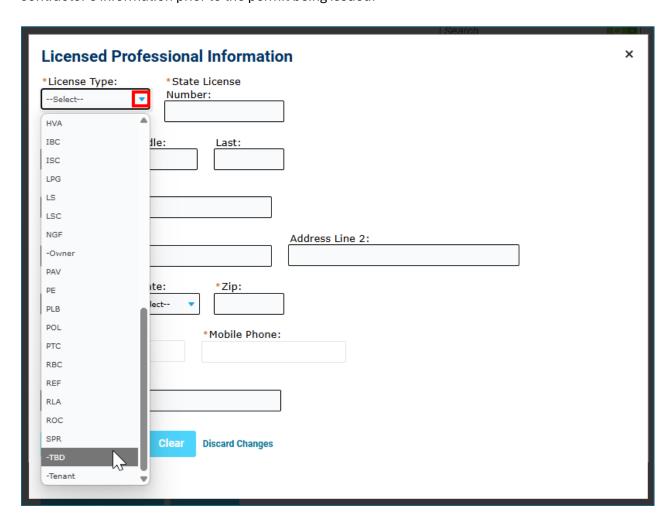


7) The pop-up window will display the street address and parcel number, which should already be selected. At the bottom of the window, select a property owner, and click "Select" to continue. Click "Continue Application" on the main screen.

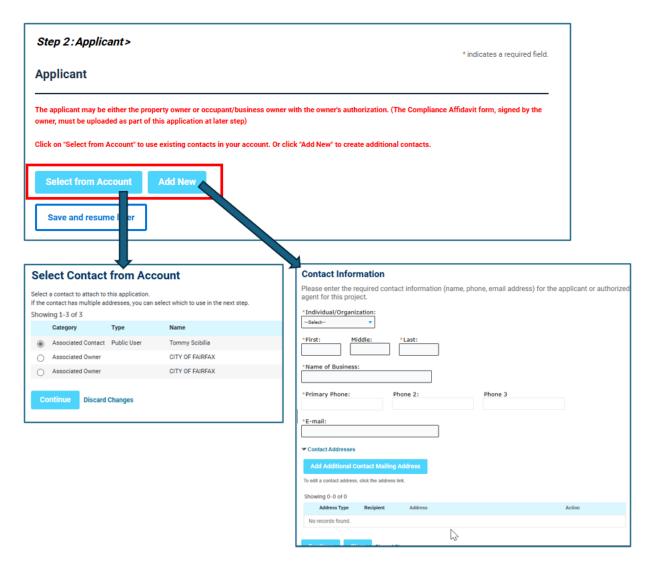


8) On the next screen you will be prompted to enter a Licensed Professional's information. Click "Add Licensed Professional" and enter their information in the pop-up window.

Note: If you do not have a licensed professional lined up at the time of filing the application, you can select "TBD" in the "License Type" drop-down menu. Note that you will have to provide the contractor's information prior to the permit being issued.



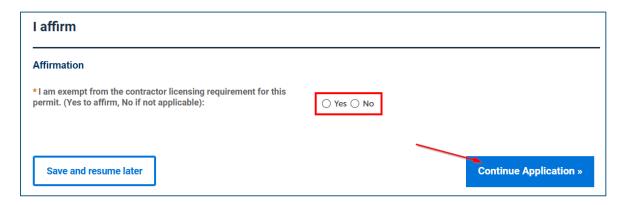
9) Below, to assign an applicant you can either select a contact already associated with your account or assign the role of applicant to another person. To select from your account, click "Select from Account", select the contact you want to use from the pop-up window, follow prompts to complete contact information, and click "Continue". If you want to add a new contact as applicant, click "New", add required contact information, and click "Continue".



10) Below, enter tenant info in the same way as in the previous step for applicant if applicable. Click "Continue Application" to proceed.



11) If you did not enter "Owner" or "Tenant" on the previous screen for licensed professional, skip to step 12. If you did, on the next screen, carefully read the statement to determine if you are exempt from using a Virginia licensed contractor to complete the work. Complete the affirmation and click "Continue Application".

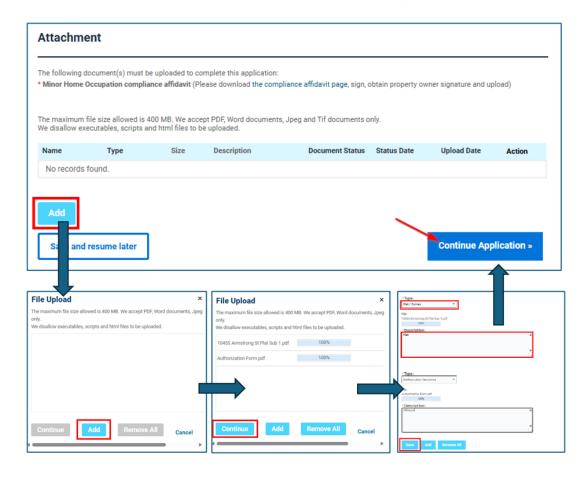


- 12) The next page is where you will enter the specifics of the project, including the scope of work, building use, the Construction Code to be used, info on fire protection systems, and estimated job cost. Typically, a licensed contractor or design professional like an architect or engineer can answer these questions. If you are having trouble filling out this information, please start by contacting your contractor or design professional for assistance. If you still are having trouble, staff in Code Administration may be able to assist on a case-by-case basis. Call 703-385-7830 to reach them. Once all required info is provided, click "Continue Application".
- 13) On the next step, if the fire protection scope was included as part of an affiliated Building Permit submission, under "Building Permit Info", enter the Building Permit record number ("BLDC..."). Click "Continue Application" to proceed.

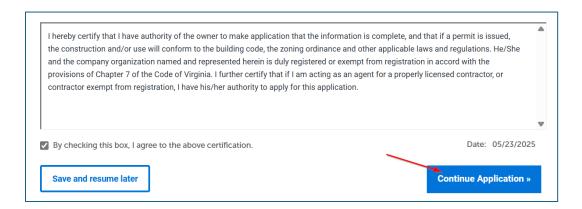
Building Permit Info	
BUILDING PERMIT INFO	
Building Permit Number:	

- 14) On the next step, you will need to submit the following attachments with this application type. Note this list is not exhaustive, and more or fewer items may be needed for staff to complete their review depending on the scope of your proposal.
 - <u>Fire protection plan</u> as a **single PDF file**. Separate sheets uploaded individually will not be accepted.
 - For very basic scopes of work, drawings may not be required. Drawings for simple and minor changes may be prepared by the contractor. More involved work may require plans prepared by an architect or engineer licensed in Virginia.

- Virginia Contractor's License
 - If the contractor is not known at the time of applying for the permit, you can select "TBD" from the contractor selection menu, and the plan review can commence. Note that if not submitted initially, the contractor's license must be uploaded to the record before the permit can be issued.
- Asbestos Affidavit (and asbestos abatement report if applicable) for existing buildings only, which demonstrates that:
 - There is no asbestos-containing material being affected, OR
 - If there is asbestos-containing material it has already been or will be abated,
 OR
 - The project is exempt from the requirement to abate (e.g. built after 1/1/1985, single-family building, etc.).
- Accessibility Compliance Form to demonstrate that the building is ADA compliant
 or sufficient improvements will be made to bring the building closer into full
 compliance.
- 15) To upload Attachments, click "Add" at the bottom of the screen, click "Add" again in the pop-up window, select the documents for upload, and click "Continue". Select the document type from the dropdown menu (note that certain document types are required to be selected in order to submit the application), enter a short description, and click "Save". Click "Continue Application" to move to the next step.



16) Review the summary page, agree to the certification, and click "Continue Application" to submit. A building permit record number will be provided on the following screen. **If you do not see a record number, you have not submitted your application, and it will not be reviewed.**



Note: If the initial submission did not contain enough information for staff to assess what permits are needed, you will receive an email stating that the submission is incomplete, prompting you to resubmit the record with additional information or attachments. See separate guide: How to Resubmit Applications.

17) Once the application is accepted, you will get an email letting you know that an invoice for the permit review fee needs to be paid, which can be completed online. To pay an invoice, login to the permit portal, navigate to "My Records" under the "Home" menu, and click "Pay Fees Due" in the "Action" column for the applicable record.



- 18) Once the fees are paid, the application will be routed for review.

Review Timeframe

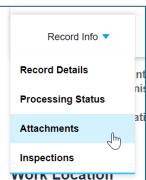
Currently, building permits are being reviewed for comments or issuance within 4 weeks of application acceptance.

End of section

Permit Issuance

Once the building permit is issued, you will receive an email with the permit attached. You can also download it from the portal by navigating to it in "My Records", clicking on the record number ("FAL...", "SPR..."), and navigating to "Attachments" under "Record Info". The permit document name will begin with "Forms_and_Letters\".





To schedule inspections, please see separate guide: How To Schedule Inspections.

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