

Director's Office, 350 Winter St. NE, Room 200, Salem, Oregon 97301-3878

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For more information:
Melanie Mesaros, 503-947-7428 or
Melanie.l.mesaros@state.or.us

Florence joins full-service online permitting

Contractors can buy building permits online

(Salem) — Florence has become the third building department in Lane County to join Oregon's full-service e-permitting program. The program, administered by the Department of Consumer and Business Services' Building Codes Division, allows contractors to submit plans, track projects, and buy various permits online.

Florence is the eighth jurisdiction statewide to use the full-service program. The others are Springfield, Cottage Grove, Lebanon, Jefferson County, Milwaukie, West Linn, and Lincoln City. The division is working to bring 12 other jurisdictions on board. The program has the capacity to serve all 134 local building departments in Oregon.

"I am excited and proud that the City of Florence is to be one of the first jurisdictions to participate in this groundbreaking effort with the State of Oregon," said Carl Dependahl, building official for Florence.

Full-service e-permitting builds on the "basic services" e-permitting program, which allows contractors to buy simple, non-plan review permits online from 34 jurisdictions. To date, more than 90,000 permit applications have been processed online through e-permitting, at BuildingPermits.Oregon.gov.

With full-service e-permitting, licensed contractors can access many more services, including:

- Purchasing a full range of permits including permits for the construction of new buildings
- Submitting electronic plans for review
- Receiving correction notices
- Printing their permit
- Tracking the permit progress
- Receiving their Certificate of Occupancy

In addition, licensed architects and engineers can submit applications, including documents for new buildings.

The e-permitting system was developed using software from Accela, Inc., which facilitates shared services approaches for state and local governments.

"I find the system easy to use," said Teahna Wilkins of Florence Heating and Sheet Metal.

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The Department of Consumer and Business Services is Oregon's largest business regulatory and consumer protection agency. For more information, visit www.dcb.s.gov.