

Submittal Requirements for Solar Water Heating Installations 30 kWth or Less for One- and Two-Family Dwellings

This information bulletin is published to guide applicants through a streamlined permitting process for solar domestic water heating (SDWH) projects 30 kWth (462 square foot) in size or smaller. This bulletin provides information about submittal requirements for plan review, required fees and inspections.

1. Approval Requirements

The following permits are required to install a SDWH system with a maximum thermal output of 30 kWth or less:

- a) A combination plumbing/building permit is required. Planning review not required for SDWH installations of this size.

2. Submittal Requirements

- a) Completed permit application form. This permit application form can be downloaded from the website.
- b) Demonstrate compliance with the eligibility checklist for expedited permitting. The eligibility checklist criteria can be downloaded from the website.
- c) A completed standard plan may be used for proposed solar installations 30 kWth in size or smaller and can be downloaded from the website.

A standard plan should be submitted that includes the following.

- *Total number of collectors and area*
- *Make, model and collector certification number*
- *System certification number*
- *Solar storage tank name, model, insulation and capacity*
- *Heat exchanger make and model (if applicable)*
- *Specifications of heat transfer fluid (if applicable)*

- d) A roof plan showing roof layout and solar collectors with attachment details.
- e) System schematic, including major components.
- f) Equipment cut sheets including collectors, controller, storage tank/heat exchanger
- g) Completed expedited Structural Criteria checklist along with required documentation. Structural Criteria can be downloaded from the website.

For systems that do not meet all the requirements in the structural criteria checklist, provide structural drawings and calculations along with the following information.

- The type of roof covering and the number of roof coverings installed
- Type of roof framing, size of members and spacing
- Weight of panels, support locations and method of attachment
- Framing plan and details for any work necessary to strengthen the existing roof structure
- Site-specific structural calculations
- Where an approved racking system is used, provide documentation showing manufacturer of the rack system, maximum allowable weight the system can support, attachment method to the roof or ground and product evaluation information or structural design for the rack system

3. Plan Review

Permit applications can be submitted in person or electronically through EMAIL/FAX]. Permit applications utilizing standard plan may be approved “over-the-counter”. Permit applications may also be submitted electronically. Permits not approved “over-the-counter” should be reviewed in [ONE TO THREE] days.

4. Fees

Established by resolution and are available on the website.

5. Inspections

Once all permits to construct the solar installation have been issued and the system has been installed, it must be inspected before final approval is granted. On-site inspections can be scheduled by telephone at 310 265-7800 or by EMAIL. Inspection requests received by 4pm are normally scheduled for the next business day.

Permit holders must be prepared to show conformance with all technical requirements in the field at the time of inspection. The inspector will verify that the installation is in conformance with applicable code requirements and with the approved plans.

The inspection checklist which may be downloaded from the website provides an overview of common points of inspection, and the applicant should be prepared to show compliance with these points.

6. Departmental Contact Information

For additional information regarding this permit process, please consult our departmental website or contact us at 310 265-7800 or by e-mail.