

How to Get a Building Permit in Deschutes County:

2026 Edition

Navigating the Community Development Department (CDD) can be daunting. Whether you are building in La Pine, Bend, or rural Deschutes County, here is the current process for securing a residential building permit in 2026.

1. The Pre-App Checklist Before you apply, you must ensure your property is ready for development. This includes:

- **Septic/Sewer:** If you aren't on a city line, you need a septic site evaluation.
- **Land Use:** Ensure your project meets setback requirements and zoning codes (e.g., Forest vs. Residential zones).
- **Address:** If the lot is vacant, you must apply for a physical address first.

2. Required Professional Drawings Deschutes County requires a complete set of digital plans. In 2026, the county has moved almost exclusively to the **Oregon ePermitting** system. Your submittal must include:

- **Site Plan:** Showing all structures, setbacks, and utility lines.
- **Floor Plans:** Fully dimensioned for each level.
- **Elevations:** Showing the exterior height and finish of all sides.
- **Structural Plans:** Detailing the foundation, framing, and roof systems (including snow load calculations).

3. The Submittal Process Submit your documents via the Oregon ePermitting portal. You will pay an intake fee based on the valuation of your project.

- **Current Timeline Tip:** For 2026, expect a 6–10 week turnaround for residential plan reviews. Submitting "permit-ready" professional plans from a local drafter can significantly reduce "corrections" and delays.

4. Inspections Once the permit is issued, you must schedule inspections at key milestones: Footings, Under-floor plumbing, Framing, and Final.

How We Help: Oregon Drafting and Design provides the exact code-compliant PDF sets required for the ePermitting portal, ensuring your application moves through the system as quickly as possible. Oregon Drafting and Design Company - Oregondraftinganddesign.com