

CITY OF MILPITAS

Office of Building Safety
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TEMPORARY ELECTRICAL POWER (RESIDENTIAL)

1. PERMIT INFORMATION

- The installation of “temporary power” requires an electrical permit.
- A Permit may be issued only to the Building Owner or their Authorized Agent [CRC 105.1].
 - See also [Authorized Agent Sample Letter](#).
 - Where the Contractor is acting as the Owner’s Authorized Agent, they must be a State of California Licensed Contractor with the proper license classification.
- If the work is performed by the Building Owner personally or by his/her workers and an inspection indicates the work cannot be completed satisfactorily, then a licensed contractor must perform the work.
- If the Building Owner hires workers, State Law requires the Building Owner to obtain Worker’s Compensation Insurance. Proof of this insurance is required prior to inspection.
- If the property is regulated by a Homeowners Association, any exterior work must have approval of the Association. It is the property owner’s responsibility to obtain this approval.

2. INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

- Codes.** All work shall comply with the California Residential Code (CRC), California Electrical Code (CEC), the Milpitas Municipal Code (MMC), and other adopted codes as applicable.
 - This document contains informational references to various California codes and the Milpitas Municipal Code, based on the 2022 and 2023 editions of those documents, respectively. For additional, or more specific, information and exceptions, please refer to the codes and standards specific to your project.
- Equipment shall be installed in accordance with its listing and the manufacturer's installation instructions per CEC 110.3(B) – *Installation and Use*. Panels shall be listed and labeled for the environment in which they are installed.
- Temporary Installations.** Temporary electrical systems and power shall comply with CEC Article 590 – *Temporary Installations*.
 - **Other Articles.** Except as modified by CEC Article 590, all other requirements of the CEC shall apply to temporary wiring installations [CEC 590.2(A)].
 - **Removal.** Temporary wiring shall be removed immediately upon completion of construction or purpose for which the wiring was installed [CEC 590.2(D)].
 - **Services.** Services shall be installed in accordance with CEC Article 230 [CEC 590.4(A)].
 - **Feeders.** Overcurrent protection shall be provided in accordance with CEC 240.4, 240.5, 240.100, and 240.101 [CEC 590.4(B)].
 - **Receptacles.**
 - **Grounding.** All receptacles shall be of the grounding type and properly grounded. Receptacles on construction sites shall not be installed on any branch circuit that supplies temporary lighting. [CEC 590.4(D)(1)]
 - **Wet Locations.** All 15- and 20-amp receptacles installed in a wet location shall comply with CEC 406.9(B)(1). [CEC 590.4(D)(2)]
 - **Disconnecting Means.** Suitable disconnecting switches or plug connectors shall be installed to permit the disconnection of all ungrounded conductors on each temporary circuit. [CEC 590.4(E)]

- **Lamp Protection.** All lamps for general illumination shall be protected from accidental contact or breakage by a suitable luminaire or lampholder with a guard. [CEC 590.4(F)]
- **Splices.** A box, conduit body, or other enclosure shall be required for all splices. [CEC 590.4(G)]
- **Protection from Accidental Damage.** Flexible cords and cables shall be protected from accidental damage. Where passing through doorways or other pinch points, protection shall be provided to avoid damage. [CEC 590.4(H)]
- **Support.** Cable assemblies and flexible cords and cables shall be supported in place at intervals that ensure they will be protected from physical damage. Vegetation shall not be used for support of overhead spans of branch circuits or feeders. [CEC 590.4(J)]
- **GFCI.** Ground-fault protection for personnel for all temporary wiring installations shall be provided so as to meet the requirements of CEC 590.6.

- All labeling of equipment shall be maintained and legible (new and reused) or shall be relabeled by an approved listing agency.
- Equipment, wiring methods and conductors installed shall comply with CEC 110, 230, 250, 408, and Chapter 3, etc.
- Overhead conductors shall comply with CEC articles 225, 230, and 590 as applicable.
- Grounding and bonding of the temporary electrical system is required. Grounding and bonding shall comply with CEC Article 250 – *Grounding and Bonding*.
- Each circuit in the panel must be identified with a circuit directory per CEC 408.4(A).

3. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Alarms and Spark Arrestor Inspection.** In all one- and two-family residences, installation and inspection of required smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms, and spark arresters must be completed prior to the final inspection. Refer to the [Smoke Alarm, Carbon Monoxide Alarm, and Spark Arrestor Certificate](#) handout for detailed information.
- **Water Conserving Fixture Inspection.** All one- and two- family residences must have replaced all non-compliant plumbing fixtures with water-conserving plumbing fixtures and verification of this is required as a condition of final approval of any permit [CA Civ Code § 1101]. Refer to the [Water Conserving Certificate of Compliance](#) handout for details and exceptions.

4. INSPECTION PROCEDURES

- Typically, one final inspection is required after installation is completed prior to meter release.
 - Depending on the complexity of system, additional inspections may be required (ask your inspector). The permit card and the city approved job copy of the plans (if applicable) shall be presented to the inspector. Upon approval of the inspection, the meter will be released, and the permit will be finalized/closed. Any revisions or modifications to a temporary system will require an additional application and permit.

5. QUESTIONS

If you have any questions regarding your project, contact the Office of Building Safety at (408) 586-3240.