

## State of Oregon Permit Surcharge

### Fast Facts:

- Oregon has 131 municipalities that administer the State Building Code.
- Permits are required for construction, reconstruction, alteration, and repair of structures and buildings.
- Fees collected must be used for the administration and enforcement of a building inspection program (ORS 455.210 (3) (c)).
- Within the municipalities, a wide variety of names have been given to items on permits requiring inspections.
- Municipalities must collect and remit surcharges either monthly or quarterly depending jurisdiction population.
- Surcharge fees are calculated by taking the total permit fee x .12 (12%).

### Contact:

Richard Rogers  
 Chief Building Official  
[richard.rogers@oregon.gov](mailto:richard.rogers@oregon.gov)  
 503-378-4472

### When is the State Surcharge fee added to a permit?

A State surcharge fee of 12% is applied to all building permit types issued in the state of Oregon. Permits are issued any time a construction activity under the state building code is authorized and will be inspected.

### Items on permits that must include State Surcharge:

- Electrical (including services)
- Mechanical (including components)
- Plumbing (including fixtures)
- Structural permits
- Manufactured Dwellings and Recreational-Park Trailer placement and/or installation
- New minor and bulk labels or replacement labels
- Boiler permits
- Elevator permits (*includes reconnections to power*)
- Prefabricated Component and Recreational Vehicle Insignias
- Prefabricated Building Components
- Re-inspections
- Investigative fees charged when construction has started prior to obtaining a permit
- Hourly and half hourly rates (*in lieu of standard permit fees for inspections*)
- Specially requested inspections or evaluations
- Inspections requested by a government agency under ORS 190
- Additional inspection fees or hourly rates
- Inspection for which no fee is specified
- Any fee charged to activate (open) an expired permit, which will result in an inspection
- Minimum or base fees
- Master permit or industrial plant inspections (*includes yearly master permit renewal, and cost of inspection, report writing time and per diem costs*)
- Retention of permit fees (*Permit issued with some inspections completed. Jurisdiction retains a % permit fees according to % of inspections performed. Surcharge is paid on % of fees retained*)

### **Fees excluded from State Surcharge**

- All types of plan review fees (*including plan review fees for phased projects and deferred plan submittals*)
- State Administrative fee (*on Manufactured Dwelling Recreational-park Trailer Placement Permit*)
- Plan, Fire Life Safety and Seismic reviews
- System, technology and automation fees
- Local planning fees or surcharges (*includes long range planning*)
- Sewer, storm sewer/drainage and septic
- Streets, sidewalks, driveways and transportation
- Parks
- Water
- General development
- Flood plain, erosion control and hazard mitigation plan
- City or County administration fees or surcharges
- Site review fees
- Demolition fees (*charged when a total structure is destroyed*)
- Credit card usage fees (*when a customer chooses to use a credit/debit card to pay for services*)
- Zoning fees
- Additional clerical staff time
- Returned checks
- Permit transfers
- Copying of additional sets of plans
- Metro Excise tax
- Rural address assignments
- Civil penalties and investigation fees (*related to compliance*)
- Permit fees not collected by building inspection program (e.g. waiver, credit, write-off)
- Permit refunds (*permit refunds are a flat rate processing fee based upon the work involved in processing the refund; refunds based upon a percentage % of permit fees are prohibited because a percentage of fees varies and does not necessarily reflect the work performed to issue the refund*)
- Retention of plan review fees (*plan review performed with no additional work – no surcharge applies*)

