

2021 SEATTLE FIRE CODE

Activities Requiring a Permit

To download a permit application, write down the Permit Search Category of the desired permit and then use the online [Permit Search](#) to download the application.

If you are not sure whether or not you are required to obtain a permit, please call the Seattle Fire Department Permit Unit for assistance at (206) 386-1450. We are open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Activity or operation	Permit required:	Permit Search Category																
Additive manufacturing	To conduct additive manufacturing operations regulated by Section 320.3 (SFC 105.5.1)	Miscellaneous Operations																
Aerosol products, aerosol cooking spray products and plastic aerosol 3 products	To manufacture, store or handle an aggregate quantity of Level 2 or Level 3 aerosol products, aerosol cooking spray products or plastic aerosol 3 products in excess of 500 pounds (227 kg) net weight. (SFC 105.5.2)	Hazardous Materials																
Amusement Buildings	To operate a special amusement building. (SFC 105.5.3) See also Special Events section.	Special Events & Assembly Occupancies																
Assembly occupancy	To operate an assembly occupancy with an occupant load of 100 or more. (SFC 105.5.44). See also Outdoor Assembly Event and Temporary Assembly Event.	Special Events & Assembly Occupancies																
Aviation facilities	To use a Group H or Group S occupancy for aircraft servicing or repair and aircraft fuel-servicing vehicles. (SFC 105.5.4)	Special Occupancy Uses																
Bonfires	To ignite a bonfire. (SFC 105.5.5)	Special Events & Assembly Occupancies																
Canopies, tents	To erect a temporary membrane structure or a tent having an area in excess of 400 square feet, or a tent open on all sides in excess of 700 square feet, with certain conditions. (SFC 105.6.24) See also Special Events section.	Special Events & Assembly Occupancies																
Carbon Dioxide Systems	To use 100 pounds (875 Cubic Feet) or more of carbon dioxide in beverage dispensing applications or 100 pounds (875 Cubic Feet) for CO2 gas enrichment systems. (SFC 105.5.11)	Hazardous Materials																
Carnivals and fairs	To conduct a carnival or fair that does not already require a City of Seattle Special Events permit. (SFC 105.5.6) See also Special Events section.	Special Events & Assembly Occupancies																
Cellulose nitrate film	To store, handle or use cellulose nitrate film in a Group A occupancy. (SFC 105.5.7)	Hazardous Materials																
Combustible dust-producing operation	To operate a grain elevator, flour starch mill, feed mill, or a plant pulverizing aluminum, coal, cocoa, magnesium, spices or sugar, or other operations producing combustible dusts as defined in SFC Chapter 2. (SFC 105.5.8)	Miscellaneous Operations																
Combustible fibers	To store or handle combustible fibers in quantities greater than 100 cubic feet (2.8 m ³). (SFC 105.5.9)	Miscellaneous Operations																
Combustible material storage	To store in any building or upon any premises in excess of 2500 cubic feet (71 m ³) gross volume of Class III or higher hazard combustible material. (SFC 105.5.10, hazard list from SFC 3203.4-6)	Miscellaneous Operations																
Compressed gases	<p>1. To store, use or handle at normal temperature and pressure (NTP) compressed gases in excess of the amounts listed:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #ADD8E6;">Type of Gas</th> <th style="background-color: #ADD8E6;">Amount (cubic feet at NTP)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Corrosive</td> <td>200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Flammable (except cryogenic fluids and LP-gas)</td> <td>200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Highly toxic, toxic, or pyrophoric</td> <td>Any amount</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Inert and simple asphyxiant</td> <td>6,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oxidizing (including oxygen)</td> <td>504</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>2. When compressed gases in use or storage exceed the amounts listed in the table above, an installation permit is required to install, repair damage to, abandon, remove, place temporarily out of service, or close or substantially modify a compressed gas system. (SFC 105.5.11 & 105.6.2)</p>	Type of Gas	Amount (cubic feet at NTP)					Corrosive	200	Flammable (except cryogenic fluids and LP-gas)	200	Highly toxic, toxic, or pyrophoric	Any amount	Inert and simple asphyxiant	6,000	Oxidizing (including oxygen)	504	Hazardous Materials
Type of Gas	Amount (cubic feet at NTP)																	
Corrosive	200																	
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Highly toxic, toxic, or pyrophoric	Any amount																	
Inert and simple asphyxiant	6,000																	
Oxidizing (including oxygen)	504																	
Covered mall building	For the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Placement of retail fixtures and displays, concession equipment, displays of highly combustible goods and similar items in the mall. 2. Display of liquid- or gas-fired equipment in the mall. 3. Use of open-flame or flame-producing equipment in the mall. 4. Use of covered mall buildings for assembly purposes (SFC 105.5.12) See also Special Events section. 	Special Events & Assembly Occupancies																

Activity or operation	Permit required:	Permit Search Category																
Cryogenic fluids	To produce, store, transport on site, use, handle or dispense cryogenic fluids in excess of the amounts listed: (SFC 105.5.13)	Hazardous Materials																
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Type of cryogenic fluid</th> <th>Inside a building (gallons)</th> <th>Outside a building (gallons)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Flammable</td> <td>More than 1</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Inert</td> <td>60</td> <td>500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oxidizing (incl. oxygen)</td> <td>10</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Physical or health hazard not indicated above</td> <td>Any amount</td> <td>Any amount</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Type of cryogenic fluid	Inside a building (gallons)	Outside a building (gallons)	Flammable	More than 1	60	Inert	60	500	Oxidizing (incl. oxygen)	10	50	Physical or health hazard not indicated above	Any amount	Any amount	
	Type of cryogenic fluid		Inside a building (gallons)	Outside a building (gallons)														
	Flammable		More than 1	60														
	Inert		60	500														
Oxidizing (incl. oxygen)	10	50																
Physical or health hazard not indicated above	Any amount	Any amount																
Cutting and welding	See hot work operations. (SFC 105.5.27)	Hot Work Operations																
Dry cleaning plants	To engage in the business of dry cleaning or to change to a more hazardous cleaning solvent used in existing dry cleaning equipment. (SFC 105.5.15)	Special Occupancy Uses																
Energy storage systems	To operate stationary and mobile energy storage systems regulated by Section 1207. (SFC 105.5.16)	Miscellaneous Operations																
Exhibits and trade shows	To operate exhibits and trade shows. (SFC 105.5.17) See also Special Events section.	Special Events & Assembly Occupancies																
Explosives	The storage, handling, sale or use of any quantity of explosive, explosive material, fireworks, or pyrotechnic special effects within the scope of SFC Chapter 56. The manufacture of explosives is prohibited. (SFC 105.5.18)	Hazardous Materials																
Fire hydrants and valves	To use or operate fire hydrants or valves intended for fire suppression purposes which are installed on water systems and accessible to a fire apparatus access road that is open to or generally used by the public. Exception: Authorized employees of the water company that supplies the system or the fire department. (SFC 105.5.19)	Contact Seattle Public Utilities																
Flammable and combustible liquids (see also Food vending)	1. To use or operate a flammable or combustible liquid pipeline within a facility.	Flammable and Combustible Liquids																
	2. To remove Class I or Class II liquids from an underground storage tank used for fueling motor vehicles by any means other than the approved, stationary on-site pumps normally used for dispensing purposes.																	
	3. To operate, install, construct or alter tank vehicles, equipment, tanks, plants, terminals, wells, fuel-dispensing stations, refineries, distilleries and similar facilities where flammable and combustible liquids are produced, processed, transported, stored, dispensed or used.																	
	4. To place temporarily out of service (for more than 90 days) an underground, protected above-ground or above-ground flammable or combustible liquid tank.																	
	5. To install, alter, remove, abandon or otherwise dispose of a flammable or combustible liquid tank.																	
	6. To change the contents stored in a flammable or combustible liquid tank to a material which poses a greater hazard than that for which the tank was designed and constructed.																	
	7. To manufacture, process, blend or refine flammable or combustible liquids.																	
	8. To engage in the dispensing of liquid fuels into the fuel tanks of motor vehicles at commercial, industrial, governmental or manufacturing establishments or to engage in on-demand mobile fueling operations in accordance with Section 5707.																	
	9. To utilize a site for the dispensing of liquid fuels from tank vehicles into the fuel tanks of motor vehicles at commercial, industrial, governmental or manufacturing establishments. To utilize a site for on-demand mobile fueling operations in accordance with Section 5707.																	
	10. To engage in the business of removing, abandoning or otherwise disposing of residential heating oil tanks.																	
	To store, handle or use flammable or combustible liquids in excess of the quantities listed in the following table: (SFC 105.5.20 & 105.6.8)																	
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Class of Liquid</th> <th colspan="2">Storage or Use</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Inside a building (gallons)</th> <th>Outside a building (gallons)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Class I</td> <td>5</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Class II</td> <td>25</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Class III-A</td> <td>25</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Class III-B</td> <td colspan="2">any amount, for fueling motor vehicles or where connected to fuel-burning equipment</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Class of Liquid	Storage or Use		Inside a building (gallons)	Outside a building (gallons)	Class I	5	10	Class II	25	60	Class III-A	25	60	Class III-B	any amount, for fueling motor vehicles or where connected to fuel-burning equipment	
Class of Liquid	Storage or Use																	
	Inside a building (gallons)	Outside a building (gallons)																
Class I	5	10																
Class II	25	60																
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Class III-B	any amount, for fueling motor vehicles or where connected to fuel-burning equipment																	
Floor finishing	To conduct floor finishing or surfacing operations exceeding 350 square feet using Class I or Class II liquids. (SFC 105.5.21)	Miscellaneous Operations																
Food vending	To use liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) also known as propane, CNG, and/or solid fuel like charcoal briquettes, for the purpose of food vending and/or area heating. (SFC 105.5.32)	Special Events & Assembly Occupancies																
Fruit and crop ripening	To operate a fruit- or crop-ripening facility or conduct a fruit-ripening process using ethylene gas. (SFC 105.5.22)	Miscellaneous Operations																
Fumigation and insecticidal fogging	To operate a business of fumigation or insecticidal fogging and to maintain a room, vault, freight container, or chamber in which a toxic or flammable fumigant is used. (SFC 105.5.23)	Miscellaneous Operations																

Activity or operation	Permit required:	Permit Search Category
Hazardous materials	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To install, repair damage to, abandon, remove, place temporarily out of service, or close or substantially modify a storage facility or other area regulated by SFC Chapter 50. Exceptions: 1) Routine maintenance. 2) Emergency repair work, but a permit application needs to be submitted within 2 working days. (SFC 105.6.12) To store, handle or use hazardous materials in excess of quantities listed in the Hazardous Materials Permit Threshold Table at the end of this document (SFC 105.5.24) 	Hazardous Materials
Hazardous material stabilization	To stabilize potentially unstable (reactive) hazardous materials. (SFC 105.5.24)	Hazardous Materials
HPM facilities	To store, handle or use hazardous production materials. (SFC 105.5.25)	Hazardous Materials
High-piled storage	To use a building or portion thereof as a high-piled storage area exceeding 500 square feet, including aisles. (46 m ²). (SFC 105.5.26)	Special Occupancy Uses
Hot work operations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To conduct hot work at public exhibitions and demonstrations. To use portable hot work equipment. Exceptions: No permit needed for approved self-contained torch assemblies with cylinders that comply with UL 147A, with a maximum water capacity of 2.7 pounds, with no more than 2.7 pounds of aggregate water capacity in stored cylinders per control area. For fixed-site hot work equipment such as welding booths. For hot work conducted within a wildfire risk area. To apply roof coverings with the use of an open-flame device. To conduct hot work on storage tanks, piping and associated systems containing or previously containing flammable or combustible liquids, or other hazardous materials that could present a fire or explosion hazard. To conduct hot work on marine vessels. (SFC 105.5.27) 	Hot Work Operations or Marine Operations (for hot work on vessels)
Industrial Ovens	To install and operate an industrial oven regulated by SFC Chapter 30. (SFC 105.5.28)	Miscellaneous Operations
Laboratory	To operate a <i>laboratory</i> . (SFC 105.5.29)	Hazardous Materials
Lumber yards and Woodworking plants	To store or process lumber exceeding 100,000 board feet (8,333 ft ³). (SFC 105.5.30)	Special Occupancy Uses
Liquid or gas-fueled vehicles or equipment in assembly areas	To display, operate or demonstrate liquid- or gas-fueled vehicles or equipment in assembly buildings. (SFC 105.5.31)	Special Events & Assembly Occupancies
LP-gas (propane)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To store and use LP-gas. Exceptions: No permit needed for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Individual containers with a 500-gallon water capacity or less serving occupancies in Group R-3. A single LP-gas container having a water capacity not exceeding 48 pounds connected to a LP-gas grill unless located at a public assembly or on a public way or if used for commercial purposes. Storage of up to three spare forklift containers of no more than 104 pounds water capacity each. To operate cargo tankers that transport LP-gas. To install or modify a LP-gas system. (SFC 105.5.32 & 105.6.15) 	Liquefied Petroleum Gases
LP-gas (propane) and solid fuel used for food vending – see Food Vending	For use with food vending or heating – see Food Vending	Liquefied Petroleum Gases
Lithium batteries	To accumulate more than 15 cubic feet of lithium-ion and lithium metal batteries where required by Section 322.2. (SFC 105.5.33)	Hazardous Materials
Magnesium	To melt, cast, heat treat or grind more than 10 pounds of magnesium. (SFC 105.105.5.34)	Hazardous Materials
Marine terminal and container freight stations	To handle or temporarily locate containers, tanks or cylinders of hazardous materials at marine terminals located within the Seattle city limits. (SFC 105.5.35)	Marine Operations
Membrane structure	To erect an air-supported temporary membrane structure or a tent having an area in excess of 400 square feet, or a tent open on all sides in excess of 700 square feet. (SFC 105.6.24) See also Special Events section.	Special Events & Assembly Occupancies
Mobile food preparation vehicles	For use with Food vending-see Food Vending	Special Events
Motor fuel-dispensing stations	To operate an automotive, marine or fleet motor fuel-dispensing station. (SFC 105.5.37)	Motor Vehicle Fueling
Open burning	Open burning is prohibited in the City of Seattle (SFC 105.5.38)	Special Events & Assembly Occupancies
Open flames and torches	To remove paint with a torch; or to use a torch or open-flame device in a wildfire risk area. (SFC 105.5.39)	Hot Work Operations
Open flames - Candles	To use open flames or candles in connection with assembly areas, dining areas or restaurants or drinking establishments. Exception: a separate open flame and candle permit is not required at a facility with a valid place of assembly permit. (SFC 105.5.40)	Special Events & Assembly Occupancies

Activity or operation	Permit required:	Permit Search Category
Open flames, open flame devices, and flame effects before an audience	To use open flames, open flame devices, flame effects, fire, or burning before an audience in connection with Group A, B or E occupancies, covered malls and outdoor assembly events. Exception: a permit is not required for the use of flame effects outdoors, unless located at an outdoor assembly event. (SFC 105.5.41)	Special Events & Assembly Occupancies
Organic coatings	For any organic-coating manufacturing operation producing more than 1 gallon of an organic coating in a day. (SFC 105.5.42)	Special Occupancy Uses
Outdoor Assembly Event	To operate an outdoor assembly event. (SFC 105.5.43)	Special Events & Assembly Occupancies
Plant extraction systems	A permit for the type of material used-see compressed gases or flammable liquids. (SFC 105.5.45)	Hazardous Materials/Flammable and Combustible Liquids
Private fire hydrants	For the removal from service, use or operation of private fire hydrants. Exception: A permit is not required for private industry with trained maintenance personnel, private fire brigade or fire departments to maintain, test and use private hydrants. (SFC 105.5.46)	Contact Seattle Public Utilities
Pyrotechnic special effects material	For the use and handling of pyrotechnic special effects material. (SFC 105.5.47) See also Special Events permits.	Special Events & Assembly Occupancies
Pyroxylin plastics	To store or handle more than 25 pounds of cellulose nitrate (pyroxylin) plastics for the assembly or manufacture of articles involving pyroxylin plastics. (SFC 105.5.48)	Hazardous Materials
Refrigeration equipment	To operate a mechanical refrigeration unit or system. Exception: No SFD permit needed for refrigeration systems that have a valid annual mechanical permit from the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections. (SFC 105.5.49)	Building Systems and Maintenance
Repair garages	To operate a repair garage. (SFC 105.5.50)	Motor Vehicle Fueling, Repair and Wrecking
Rooftop heliports	To operate a rooftop heliport. (SFC 105.5.51)	Special Occupancy Uses
Spraying and dipping	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To conduct a spraying or dipping operation utilizing flammable or combustible liquids or to apply combustible powders regulated by SFC Chapter 24. Exception: mobile spray coaters licensed by, and meeting the requirements of, the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. To install or modify a spray room, dip tank, or booth. (SFC 105.5.52 & 105.6.22) <p>Note: A no-fee, operational permit is required for spraying operations utilizing water-based paints in accordance with Chapter 24.</p>	Flammable and Combustible Liquids
Temporary assembly occupancy	To use any building or structure, or portion thereof, other than established Group A occupancies for assembly purposes with an occupant load of 50 or more. (SFC 105.5.54)	Special Events & Assembly Occupancies
Tents	To erect an air-supported temporary membrane structure or a tent having an area in excess of 400 square feet, or a tent open on all sides in excess of 700 square feet. (SFC 105.6.24) See also Special Events section.	Special Events & Assembly Occupancies
Tire, scrap tire and tire byproduct storage	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To establish, conduct or maintain outdoor storage of 500 or more tires and scrap tires or tire byproducts that exceeds 2,500 cubic feet of total volume. To store tires and tire byproducts inside a building. (SFC 105.5.53) 	Miscellaneous Operations
Tire rebuilding plants	For the operation and maintenance of a tire-rebuilding plant. (SFC 105.5.56)	Special Occupancy Uses
Waste handling	To operate a waste-handling facility. (SFC 105.5.57)	Miscellaneous Operations
Wrecking yard	To operate a wrecking yard or junk yard. (SFC 105.5.57)	Motor Vehicle Fueling, Repair and Wrecking
Wood products	To store chips, hogged material, lumber or plywood in excess of 200 cubic feet. (SFC 105.5.58)	Miscellaneous Operations

Hazardous Materials Permit Threshold Table

Type of material	Permit is required for quantities in excess of:	Download an application for permit
Combustible liquids	See flammable and combustible liquids	Level II blank permit app
Corrosive Materials Gases Liquids Solids	See compressed gases 55 gallons 1,000 pounds	Level II blank permit app
Explosive Materials	Any amount	Level II blank permit app
Flammable materials Gases Liquids Solids	See compressed gases See flammable liquids 100 pounds	Level II blank permit app
Highly toxic materials Gases Liquids Solids	See compressed gases Any amount Any amount	Level II blank permit app
Oxidizing materials Gases Liquids Class 4 Class 3 Class 2 Class 1 Solids Class 4 Class 3 Class 2 Class 1	See compressed gases Any amount 1 gallon 10 gallons 55 gallons Any amount 10 pounds 100 pounds 500 pounds	Level II blank permit app
Organic peroxides Liquids Class I Class II Class III Class IV Class V Solids Class I Class II Class III Class IV Class V	Any amount Any amount 1 gallon 2 gallons No permit required Any amount Any amount 10 pounds 20 pounds No permit required	Level II blank permit app
Pyrophoric materials Gases Liquids Solids	Any amount Any amount Any amount	Level II blank permit app
Toxic materials Gases Liquids Solids	See compressed gases 10 gallons 100 pounds	Level II blank permit app
Unstable materials Liquids Class 4 Class 3 Class 2 Class 1 Solids Class 4 Class 3 Class 2 Class 1	Any amount Any amount 5 gallons 10 gallons Any amount Any amount 50 pounds 100 pounds	Level II blank permit app
Water-reactive materials Liquids Class 3 Class 2 Class 1 Solids Class 3 Class 2 Class 1	Any amount 5 gallons 55 gallons Any amount 50 pounds 500 pounds	Level II blank permit app