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www.co.hawaii.hi.us Click on Public Works

What's involved in building your home?

A new brochure and upgraded online services by the Department of Public Works make it a bit easier for anyone interested in knowing what's involved in building their own home.

The brochure is a quick read. Bullet points list the steps the homeowner must take from submitting house plans to the required inspections and when to call in for an inspection.

The brochure is available at hardware stores around the island as well as the Public Works Kona and Hilo offices. This guide to Building a house is available at: Ikeuchi B & Sons in Honoka'a; J&J Hardware, Trojan Lumber, Home Depot stores, HPM stores, Ace Hardware stores, and at Hawaii True Value in Volcano Village, and the General Store in Kea'au.

Downloadable building permit worksheets are available online and help to make the permit process a bit simpler, and online answers to frequently asked questions guide the user through the application process. To download the worksheet, County building codes and other permit information go to <http://co.hawaii.hi.us/permits/permits.htm>.

The Building Division also offers an online service to access building, plumbing, and electrical permit information for active and completed permits from 1980 to today. Details such as the date the permit was issued, the contractor's name and the description of the work performed appear in the report. Information is updated weekly.

To generate a permit inquiry, go to www.co.hawaii.hi.us, click on “Real Property Tax,” then click on “Real Property Tax Site.” Once you’re there, click on “Property Search,” then click on “Parcel Number.” Type in the TMK number and click “Search.” Click on the parcel ID #, then on the icon “Generate a Permit Report.” The information takes a few minutes to download. Details and a summary of permits that pertain to this TMK will appear.