

CITY OF DURANGO SOLAR PERMITS

Solar panels may be installed on commercial and residential rooftops, within most overlay districts in the City of Durango, with the issuance of a solar permit. Residential solar permits are issued in accordance with Chapter 23 of the 2006 International Building Code; commercial solar permits are issued in accordance with Chapter 14 of the 2006 International Mechanical Code. Cross Connection Backflow Prevention Devices must be installed on all City of Durango water systems in accordance with the *International Plumbing Code*, Chapter 6, Section 608. All Backflow Prevention Device Installations must be inspected by the City of Durango Cross Connection Technician before device(s) are placed into service. These Backflow Prevention Installation Requirements have been established by City of Durango City Ordinances O-2008-16, O-2008-17, and O-2008-18.

Residential Structures

Prior to issuance of a solar permit for a residential structure, Staff will determine that the following have been met:

- Height, specific to each zoning district, (see LUDC)
- Setbacks, specific to each zoning district, (see LUDC)
- Properties within the historic district, (E Third Avenue), require an Alterations Certificate prior to application for a solar permit
- Manufacturer's specifications for installation
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Commercial Buildings

Prior to issuance of a solar permit on a commercial building, Staff will use the following administrative review criteria:

- For commercial buildings with a flat roof, solar panels shall not be visible from primary streets. Any new screening required to meet this criteria shall be subject to review and approval of the Design Review Board.
- For commercial buildings with a flat roof, visibility of solar panels from side streets and alleys shall be limited to the extent practicable. When viewed from these perspectives:
 - The panels shall be compatible with the height and scale of the subject building;
 - The panels shall not obscure architectural details of the subject building or adjacent buildings; and,
 - The panels shall not adversely impact the historical context of the area.
- For commercial buildings with a pitched roof, installation of solar panels that match the existing roof pitch, do not exceed the height of the existing building, and do not exceed twelve (12) inches from the roof shall be permitted.
- Installation of solar panels on commercial landmarked buildings or buildings with a façade easement shall be subject to review and approval by the Historic Preservation Board.

If proposed rooftop solar panel installations meet these criteria, applicants may apply for applicable solar permits. If proposed rooftop solar panel installations do not meet these criteria, review and approval by the Design Review Board is required prior to application for applicable solar permits.

Please complete a *Building Permit Application* and submit the application along with TWO COPIES of the following: a site plan, manufacturer's specifications, elevations. The \$20 permit fee must be paid when the permit is issued. Applicants will also need to obtain an electrical permit at the State of Colorado Electrical Inspector's Office, 1774 Main Avenue, 259-1300; and notify La Plata Electric Association (LPEA), 45 Stewart Street, 247-5786.