What is the process?

The code has more restrictive requirements as the detached structure gets larger, but the process is the same:
1. Prior to placing your structure on the lot, contact the Planning Department for setback and easement requirements.
2. Gather all of the necessary documents listed below.
3. Complete the permit application(s).
4. Pay the required fee.
5. The documents will be reviewed by multiple county departments and once they are satisfied, the permit will be issued.
6. After receiving the permit, you can begin construction.
7. Call for the required inspection(s) as you proceed.
8. Obtain an approved final inspection prior to use.

What documents are required?

The following construction documents must accompany the permit application:
1. Plot plan — showing the proposed setback distances between the structure and all property lines and the distance to other structures on the property.
2. Construction drawings — two sets are required, including:
   - Dimensioned floor plan,
   - Front and side view elevations or isometric sketch,
   - Detailed drawings showing the structural framing, including member sizes and spacing,
   - Details showing how the structure will be secured to the ground — the manufacturer’s anchoring details must be provided.

Note: If the structure is purchased, be sure you get a copy of the plans to your specific unit, i.e., not generalized plans. The plans may be provided by the seller or manufacturer, similar to the example below.
What are the permit fees?

Information concerning fees is available on our Web site www.chesterfield.gov/bi or by calling the Building Inspection Department and is subject to annual change.

How long does it take to get the permit?

The permitting process requires approval of:
✓ Building Inspection Department
✓ Planning Department
✓ Environmental Engineering Department
✓ Health Department (if on well or septic)

You can find out the permit status from the Building Inspection website by entering the permit number. When your construction documents are in order and you have received approval from all of these departments, a building permit and one set of approved field plans will be mailed to you, or you may pick them up at the Building Inspection Department depending on the option you selected on the application form.

What are the code requirements?

Structures between 201-256 square feet

A shed, carport or metal structure that is between 201 and 256 square feet (examples: 12 ft. x 20 ft. or 16 ft. x 25 ft.) must be built in accordance with the code and be anchored to the ground – typical anchorage systems include auger type or strap type tie-downs.

Structures over 400 square feet

A shed, carport or metal structure that is over 400 square feet (example: bigger than 20 ft. x 20 ft. or 16 ft. x 25 ft.), must be supported on continuous footings at least 18 inches below finished grade.

Structures between 257-400 square feet

A shed, carport or metal structure that is between 257 and 400 square feet (examples: 20 ft. x 20 feet or 16 ft. x 25 ft.) must be built in accordance with the code and have a permanent foundation system at least 18 inches below final grade. Typical permanent foundation systems include concrete piers (12 in. by 12 in. by 8 in. thick) or continuous concrete footings.

Special considerations

For light-framed metal structures, the manufacturer’s literature shall clearly indicate the number, size and spacing of anchors. The metal runners must be set on piers or be anchored directly into the earth – they may not be anchored directly to a 4-inch thick concrete slab.

A “pole barn” is interpreted to mean a structure on a working farm used primarily in the handling of livestock or storage of agricultural products and/or related implements. Similar structures not on working farms will be considered detached structures.

What inspections are required?

The following inspections are typically required:
1. Footing inspection (if the structure will be over 256 square feet)
2. Slab inspection (if the structure will have a concrete floor)
3. Framing inspection
4. Electrical inspection (if applicable)
5. Mechanical and/or gas inspection (if applicable)
6. Plumbing inspection (if applicable)
7. Final inspection by Building Inspection Department and any of the other county departments

There are two ways to request inspections:
1. Call (804) 751-4444, the automated Interactive Voice Response system, and request an inspection.
2. Call (804) 751-4990, to speak to a customer service representative and request your inspection.

Prior to digging, call

Miss Utility — Dial 811

Miss Utility is a free service that will locate all member utilities that may have facilities in your proposed area of excavation. Notification must be made a minimum of 48 hours prior to any excavating.