

● Important Change In Electrical Permitting Process

Significant change has taken place in the way the department processes and assigns numbers to electrical permits. We have discontinued use of the pre-printed, multi-color permit application forms. **Without exception, the pre-printed permit applications are no longer being accepted.** Any of the old forms received will be returned to the sender with a new form to be completed and returned. An electrical permit will not be valid until the new form has been completed, received, and assigned a valid permit number in the department's database. If you do not have an electronic number assigned to your permit, you do not have a valid permit, and you may be subject to a citation.

The new forms utilize specific line-item fees for each aspect of the job to accurately describe the work that is being performed. This will speed up the processing of the application and will help the inspector to identify the scope of work the electrical contractor or homeowner intends to perform on the jobsite. If any contractors have any of the old pre-printed, multi-color permit applications in the office or in their service trucks, they should be discarded immediately to eliminate the chance of accidental use.

● Reminder: Submit WAC Rule Revision Proposals July 1 through July 15

Revision proposals for the next cycle will be accepted from July 1, 2005 through July 15, 2005. Any proposals received before or after that date will be discarded. The form will be available on the Labor and Industries website (below) on June 20th and must be submitted electronically. See the March 2005 special edition *Electrical Currents* newsletter for details on all aspects of the rule revision process. Please contact the electrical program at (360) 902-5269 with any questions.

www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Electrical

● Access For Hydromassage Tub Equipment Must Be Provided

NEC 680.73 states that "*Hydromassage bathtub electrical equipment shall be accessible without damaging the buildings structure or building finish.*" There have been a significant number of corrections written for this code violation. All electric motors or pumps eventually require servicing. The size of the access is typically stated on the manufactures installation requirements. If the installation requirements are not present the access must be large enough to remove and replace the largest piece of electrical equipment without causing damage.

Disconnection of the plumbing and wastewater connections and removal of the entire tub from its mounting does not constitute the type of access to the electrical equipment required by the NEC. It is the responsibility of the electrical contractor to communicate this requirement to the general contractor so appropriate framing modifications, access panels, or building finish modifications can be planned and identified for the electrical inspector at the time of inspection. This is an electrical correction and the electrical contractor is responsible for the corrections and any necessary trip fees.

● Warning's Will Be Issued For Fee Dues

Due to the increasing amount of fee dues the department has had to process in the recent months, written warnings will be issued to the electrical contractors and the assigned administrator/master electrician for work not included on the permit. Fee dues take a significant amount of an inspector's time to process. It is the responsibility of the administrator to ensure that the complete scope of the work is included with the purchase of the permit.

● Electrical Question of the Month

This Month's Question: Electricity cost 13 cents per kilowatt hour. Ten metal halide high bay lights draw 2 amps each at 240 volts for 12 hours a day 5 days a week. How much will these lights cost in a four week period? **A)** \$419, **B)** \$150, **C)** \$105, **D)** \$210.

Last Month's Question: Bare aluminum or copper clad aluminum grounding electrode conductors are not permitted to be terminated within ____ inches of the earth.. **A)** 12, **B)** 15, **C)** 18, **D)** 24. The answer is C [NEC 250.120(B)]