

**BUILDING PERMITS DIVISION**

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**Sussex County**

DELAWARE  
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**SUSSEX COUNTY BUILDING PERMIT FEE GUIDE**

The following is intended to be a guide in determining the cost of a Sussex County building permit. This guide does not include plan review and inspection fees.

**STEP 1:** Using the table below, determine the total construction value based on the cost per square foot as provided. If not listed below, you will provide the actual construction value.

CONSTRUCTION TYPE	SQ FT	X	COST	TOTAL
Residential (includes duplexes and townhomes)			\$128.10	
Garage, Pole Building			\$52.23	
Unfinished Area – Deck, Porch, Shed, Unfinished Basement			\$23.36	
Apartment			\$116.34	
Farm Building			\$6.00	

**STEP 2:** Calculate the **BUILDING PERMIT FEE** as follows:

PROPERTY OUTSIDE TOWN LIMITS	
First \$1,000 of construction value	\$5.00
Each additional \$1,000 thereafter	\$2.50

PROPERTY WITHIN TOWN LIMITS	
First \$1,000 of construction value	\$5.00
Each additional \$1,000 thereafter	\$1.50

**EXAMPLE – Property Outside Town Limits**

Construction Value (actual)	\$50,001.00
First \$1,000	\$5.00
Remaining Construction Value:	
$\$50,001.00 - \$1,000.00 = \$49,001.00$	
$\$49,001.00 / 1000 = 49.001$	
$49.001 \times \$2.50 = \$122.50$	
<b>BUILDING PERMIT FEE:</b>	<b><math>\\$5.00 + \\$122.50 = \\$127.50</math></b>



**STEP 3:** Calculate the **FIRE DISTRICT FEE**.  
The Fire District Fee is .0015 of the actual construction value.

**EXAMPLE:** \$50,001.00 x .0015 = \$75.00

**STEP 4:** Determine whether a **SCHOOL SURCHARGE** applies.  
Certain building permits are subject to a School Surcharge established annually during the budget process.

SCHOOL SURCHARGE APPLIES TO:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All permits with a construction value above \$150,000</li> <li>• Nonresidential commercial permits up to \$1 million</li> </ul>

SCHOOL SURCHARGE DOES NOT APPLY TO:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DSHA projects or projects funded by DSHA</li> <li>• Improvements completed through the Sussex County Rental Program</li> <li>• Building permits applied for by state or local government department or agency</li> <li>• Qualified 501c3 organizations</li> <li>• Building structures actively devoted to agricultural or public safety uses</li> <li>• Replacement of destroyed or demolished structures within 24 months</li> </ul>

➤ See Sussex County Code, Chapter 62, Article III, § 62-7J

**STEP 5:** Calculate TOTAL PERMIT FEES.

**EXAMPLE – Property Outside Town Limits**

TOTAL PERMIT FEES = Building Permit Fee + Fire District Fee + School Surcharge (if applicable)	
Construction Value (actual)	\$50,001.00
Building Permit Fee (Step 2)	\$127.50
Fire District Fee (Step 3)	\$75.00
School Surcharge (if applicable)	Not Applicable
<b>TOTAL PERMIT FEES</b>	<b>\$202.50</b>

