



Solar Panel Guidance

Do I need a building permit to install solar panels on my property?

Yes. Solar panels are generally permitted in residential, commercial and industrial districts with a Moorhead Building Permit and State Electrical Permit but must be first reviewed and approved by Planning & Zoning (email planning@moorheadmn.gov or call 218.299.5370) and Moorhead Public Service.

Residential Solar Panels:

1. Adding ground-mounted panels
 - a. Zoning review/approval
 - b. Moorhead Public Service (MPS) review/approval of Small Generation Agreement
 - i. MPS determines how many panels you may install to prevent overloading existing infrastructure
 - c. Building Permit required by a licensed contractor
 - d. State Electrical Permit
2. Adding rooftop-mounted panels
 - a. Zoning review/approval
 - b. Moorhead Public Service review/approval of Small Generation Agreement
 - i. MPS determines how many panels you may install to prevent overloading existing infrastructure
 - c. Building Permit required by a licensed contractor
 - d. State Electrical Permit

Non-Residential Solar Panels:

1. Must be affiliated with existing commercial or industrial use (i.e., cannot be installed on a vacant lot)
2. Adding ground-mounted panels
 - a. Provide at least a 10-foot brush-free area around solar panels as required by MN Building Code
 - b. Moorhead Public Service (MPS) review/approval of Commercial

Moorhead City Hall
403 Center Ave
Moorhead, MN 56560

Generation Agreement

- i. MPS determines how many panels you may install to prevent overloading existing infrastructure
- c. Building Permit
- d. State Electrical Permit

3. Adding rooftop-mounted panels

- a. Moorhead Public Service (MPS) review/approval of Commercial Generation Agreement
 - i. MPS determines how many panels you may install to prevent overloading existing infrastructure
- b. Building Permit
- c. State Electrical Permit

Solar Farms:

- 1. Not currently permitted in city limits