



DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING, PLANNING, & ZONING
VILLAGE OF NEW PALTZ
25 Plattekill Avenue, New Paltz, NY 12561

BUILDING INSPECTION

COVID-19: Essential vs. Non-essential Construction

March 28, 2020

As the number of COVID-19 cases balloons throughout New York, Gov. Andrew Cuomo has ordered all non-essential construction to halt. Under the Governor's new directive, all non-essential construction must shut down except emergency construction, (e.g. a project necessary to protect health and safety of the occupants, or to continue a project if it would be unsafe to allow to remain undone until it is safe to shut the site). Essential construction may continue with advisement of local code enforcement official. At every site, if essential or emergency non-essential construction, this includes maintaining social distance, including for purposes of elevators/meals/entry and exit. Sites that cannot maintain distance and safety best practices must close and enforcement will be provided by the state in coordination with the city/local governments. This will include fines of up to \$10,000 per violation. For purposes of this section construction work does not include a single worker, who is the sole employee/worker on a job site.

In order to understand this directive better and provide specific guidance to our construction community please see below for an expanded list of projects that would qualify as essential or non-essential according to the Village of New Paltz.

ESSENTIAL

- Roads
- Bridges
- Transit Facilities
- Utilities
- Hospitals
- Health Care Facilities
- Affordable Housing 100%
- Homeless Shelters

NON-ESSENTIAL

- New construction
- Additions
- Renovations
- Roofing
- Accessory structures
- Solar
- Demolition
- Tank Abandonment
- Tank Removal
- Building Inspector determines non-essential

This list is a generalization of projects if a project description does not appear on the lists aforementioned please contact the building department to receive an official interpretation. If there are any other questions concerning the above, please feel free to contact the office at (845) 255-3055.

Cory Wirthmann

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Code Enforcement Official
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Village of New Paltz – Building Department