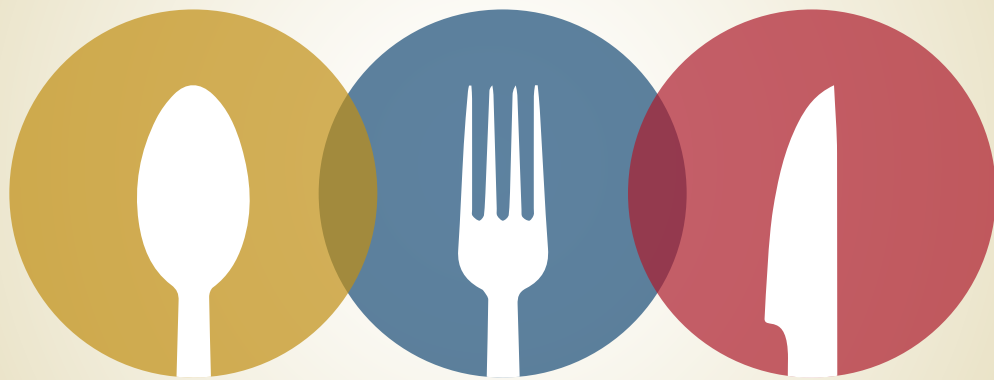


Montgomery County
Welcomes
Restaurant
Businesses



With
Recipes
For
Success



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Call 311 in Montgomery County or 240-777-0311 outside of Montgomery County to schedule a pre-design consultation to discuss your new restaurant location or changes to existing restaurants. Pre-design consultations are held Tuesdays at 9:00am with representatives from the departments below as required.

Department of Permitting Services (DPS)

Question	Information Needed by DPS
Is the restaurant use permitted in the zone where you want to locate?	A detailed description of the restaurant operation.
Is there adequate parking?	DPS needs to know the exact location of the property and may need a site plan - showing the existing uses and the existing parking to assess your required parking.
Is there an approved Use and Occupancy certificate for the location? If there is a Use and Occupancy for a restaurant you may not need to apply for another Use and Occupancy Certificate.	If not complete the Request for Information form on the DPS website. DPS will search their records for any existing Use and Occupancy Certificates.
Does the building/unit comply with the building and fire codes for a restaurant?	DPS may require "as built" architectural plans to determine if the building/unit is in compliance.
Does the landlord have up to date architectural (as built plans) and site plans for the location? If you are required to submit a building permit for this location, having the existing plans could save you the cost of hiring an architect and land surveyor to create new plans which could be costly.	DPS may have existing plans if permits were submitted for this location. Complete the Request for Information form on the DPS website.
Are changes required to the space that will require a building permit, electrical permit or mechanical permit?	DPS will need as much information as you have to assess the type of permits required, permit costs and time to review and issue the permits.
What DPS permits could be required for your location?	One or more of the following permits could be required depending on the existing conditions and your proposed changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Permit • Electrical Permit



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mechanical Permit • Fire Protection System Permit • Fire Alarm Permit • Use and Occupancy Certificate • Sign Permit • Right of Way Permit (outdoor seating) • Historic Area Work Permit <p>(See Design Consultation Application for complete list.)</p>
Is Roof Top dining and entertaining permitted?	If dining is permitted in the Zone , then a building permit is required. Please check with your design professional for all codes adopted in Montgomery County. For any additional information or questions, call 311 or 240-777-0311 and request the Zoning Division.

Alcohol Beverage Services (ABS)

Question	Information Needed by Alcohol Beverage Services
Are you applying for an alcohol license?	Contact the Montgomery County Alcohol Beverage Services at 240-777-1999 or 240-777-1904 (Outreach Office) or visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ABS and click on “applications” for basic information to get you started. Applications are reviewed weekly and are scheduled for a hearing 30 days out once the application is complete. ABS staff will help you through the licensing process and arrange an application review session if needed.
Would you like to add a special permit to your current license such as catering or an outdoor café?	Applications can be found online at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ABS under “applications”. Call 240-777-1999 or email dlc@montgomerycountymd.gov for assistance.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Health and Human Services (HHS)

Question	Information Needed by Health and Human Services (Food and Facilities Licenses)
Are architectural drawings required?	If the facility is new construction or altered a complete set of architectural drawings will be required. Contact (240)777-3986 for detailed information. Plan submittal may also be required by the State of Maryland if the facility is a chain restaurant. Contact the Maryland Division of Food Control at (410)767-8400.
What additional information is needed with the menu?	A licensee may not operate an establishment unless the facility is under the immediate control of a Certified Food Service Manager. Provide the name of an employee who has obtained a Montgomery County Certified Food Service Manager's card.
How does one obtain a Certified Food Manager Card?	An individual must take and pass an approved American National Standards Institute (ANSI) course. Upon completion, the individual must present the original certification along with a government issued photo ID.
Does Montgomery County have a Nutritional Labeling law and who is required to comply?	Yes, If the facility is part of a chain with at least 20 locations in the United States compliance with Montgomery County Nutritional Labeling Law is required.
Is it permissible to use Trans Fat in Montgomery County?	No, any facility that prepares foods may not use partially hydrogenated vegetable oils, shortenings, or margarines that contain more than 0.5 grams of artificial trans fat per serving. This regulation does not apply to food that is served directly to patrons in the manufacturer's original sealed packaging.
Does the facility plan to provide alcoholic beverages?	Contact the Alcohol Beverage Services at (240)777-1999.
Will the facility be serviced by public water and sewer, or require a grease interceptor?	Contact Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) at (301)206-8000, or City of Rockville at (301)314-8240.
Will the facility be serviced by well water or private septic system?	Contact Department of Permitting Services at (240)777-6300



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Fire Department

Question	Information Needed by Fire Department
Am I changing the use and occupancy type of an existing building? Am I moving into a new building with no prior occupancy? If so, my site may be required to have an approved fire department access and water supply plan.	Contact the Montgomery County Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) at 240-777-2457 to check if there is an approved plan on file. If so, obtain a copy and submit to DPS with your permit package. If not, OFM staff will work with you and your design engineer to develop one.
What permits may be required from the Office of the Fire Marshal?	Operational Permits allow the Office of the Fire Code Compliance to track the required testing found in NFPA 25 (Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems) and NFPA 72 (National fire Alarm Code)

Department of Economic Development (DED)

Question	Information Needed by Department of Economic Development
Where can I find information about starting a business in Montgomery County?	Visit the Montgomery County Business Resources page for more information. Additional Resources are also available from the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (www.choosemaryland.org).

Montgomery County Circuit Court

Question	Information Needed by Montgomery County Circuit Court
Do I need a Business License (Traders) to operate as a restaurant?	Yes. A restaurant is required to have a business license .

WSSC

Question	Information needed by WSSC
Is the facility currently served by public water and sewer?	If not and you would like to be connected to either public water and / or sewer, then contact WSSC Permit Services Unit at 301-206-4003.
Are the existing water/sewer connection and meter size large enough to handle the proposed domestic/fire pressure demands?	Contact the WSSC (301-206-4003) to determine the type of permits required; permit costs, and provide the existing water and sewer service connection sizes. WSSC Plans Review staff will verify the adequacy of the service connections and pipelines on-property to serve the domestic plumbing fixtures and related water utilizing equipment during the review of the plumbing plans in concert with



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

	<p>the issuance of the plumbing permit.</p> <p>WSSC staff does not determine the adequacy of water service connection or pipelines on-property to serve fire protection systems. Montgomery County requires a separate review of fire protection systems.</p> <p>However, for water connections 4” diameter and larger, WSSC staff will review the civil “site utility” water design using flow demands provided by the applicant.</p> <p>In general, where new or larger service connections are needed, the onus is on the owner and their design and construction teams to make timely and accurate request for new service connections and flow demands where applicable.</p>
<p>What should I do prior to removing fixtures on an existing space?</p>	<p>It is the applicant/owner responsibility to hire a WSSC Registered Master Plumber to apply for a System Development Charge (SDC) Fixture Credit Permit and WSSC will perform an inspection to verify the fixture count for SDC credits prior to removal of fixtures and demolition of the building.</p>
<p>What should I do if it is determined that the current water, sewer connection or meter size is not adequate to service my future water demand and fire sprinkler requirements?</p>	<p>If you should need to abandon your current water or sewer connection and upgrade the service connection size to meet new water/sewer demands, then contact WSSC Permit Services Unit at 301-206-4003 to review what forms, documents and fees will be required.</p>
<p>Are plumbing drawings required? And if so, how long is the plan review process?</p>	<p>Plumbing drawings are required for all new food service establishments and owner initiated retrofits of existing spaces/buildings. First review may take up to 15 business days; subsequent reviews, if needed, may also take up to 15 business days, but generally they do not.</p>
<p>What is the submittal process for plumbing drawings?</p>	<p>WSSC accepts plumbing plans electronically or in full scale paper format. For electronic submittals, applicants (must be a WSSC licensed Master Plumber/Gasfitter), must first submit their permit application, and then they will receive an “invitation” to upload plans.</p> <p>In general, drawings shall include: floor plans, riser schematics (2D), and equipment and fixture schedules. Risers are required for DWV, water, and gas; risers shall also include sufficient information to assess pipe sizing and proper schemes.</p>
<p>What WSSC Permits may be required for your project?</p>	<p>A Long Form Permit will need to be applied for by a WSSC Registered Master Plumber that you have hired to perform the work required and to schedule all</p>



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

	plumbing / fuel gas inspections.
What is the timeframe for the issuance of Permits?	This will depend on the type of Permit that you (abandonment / service connections) or your plumber (plumbing / fuel gas permits) will need to apply for.
Who do I contact with questions regarding Permits and Fees?	WSSC – Permit Services Unit at (301) 206-4003.
Who do I contact with questions regarding plan review?	WSSC – Regulatory Services Group, Plans Review at (301) 206-8886 or PlumbingPlansReview@wsscwater.com
Who do I contact with questions regarding the WSSC Plumbing Gas Code Regulations?	WSSC – Regulatory Services Group, Plumbing Code Inquiries at (301) 206-8886. PlumbingPlansReview@wsscwater.com
Who do I contact with questions regarding Grease Interceptor requirements?	WSSC – Regulatory Services Group, Plans Review at (301) 206-8886. PlumbingPlansReview@wsscwater.com
What Code does WSSC use and enforce.	WSSC uses the 2015 WSSC Plumbing & Fuel Gas Code .

Other Approvals may be required from the following agencies:

- [SHA](#) (State Highway Administration)
- [Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission](#)
- [Department of Health and Human Services](#)
- Townships

Other Agencies to Contact

Other Agencies and Utilities to Contact	Allegheny Power
	Baltimore Gas & Electric Co. (BG&E)
	Historical Preservation



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Other Agencies to Contact

	International Code Council (ICC)
	Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation
	Miss Utility
	MNCPPC: Historic Area Work Permits
	MNCPPC: MC Atlas
	MNCPPC: Zoning
	Municipalities
	National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
	Potomac Electric Power Company (PEPCO)
	U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) by Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL)
	Verizon
	Washington Gas Light Co.
	WSSC



Montgomery County
Department of Permitting Services

2425 Reedie Drive, 7th Floor
 Wheaton, MD 20902
 Phone: 311 in Montgomery County or (240) 777-0311



A. Client Information

Name: _____

Company Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Client's Point of Contact:

Name: _____

Company Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

B. Project Information

Project Address: _____

Detailed Project Description: _____

Is this new construction? (Y/N) _____ Addition? (Y/N) _____ Alteration? (Y/N) _____

Existing Building _____ Sq. Ft. New Building _____ Sq. Ft. Site _____ Sq. Ft.

If new construction: Have soils been investigated? (Y/N) _____ Sediment Control Permit #: _____

Building # of Stories: _____

Existing Approved Occupancy Use Classification(s), if any: _____ Date of U&O: _____

Proposed Occupancy Use Classification(s): _____

Construction Type (IBC Classification): _____ If unknown, describe construction:

Is building Sprinkled (Y/N): _____

Water & Sewage: WSSC (Y/N): _____ WELL (Y/N): _____ SEPTIC(Y/N): _____

C. Meeting Information

Number of attendees you expect to bring: _____

Provide copy of Site plan and Building Existing & Proposed Plan

D. Meeting Agenda / Check List

Please review related links available at DPS website. Check "YES" for items needed to be discussed:

YES	Permit/License	Department
NA	DPS eServices	DPS
NA	Restaurant Welcome Packet	DPS
NA	Zoning FAQ	DPS
<input type="checkbox"/>	Commercial Change of Use	DPS
<input type="checkbox"/>	Commercial New Construction	DPS
<input type="checkbox"/>	Commercial Additions	DPS
<input type="checkbox"/>	Commercial Interior Alteration Interior and Exterior Alterations	Department of Permitting Services (DPS)



**Montgomery County
Department of Permitting Services**

2425 Reedie Drive, 7th Floor
Wheaton, MD 20902
Phone: 311 in Montgomery County or (240)777-0311
Fax: (240)777-6262
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/permittingservices>



Restaurant Design Consultation Application

<input type="checkbox"/>	Commercial Fast Track	DPS
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sign Permit	DPS
<input type="checkbox"/>	Historic Area Work Permit	DPS
<input type="checkbox"/>	Electrical Permit	DPS
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mechanical Permit	DPS
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fire Protection Fire Protection System Permit Fire Alarm Permit	DPS
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Right-of-Way Driveway Permit Revocable Public Right-of-Way Outdoor Café Seating Guideline	DPS
<input type="checkbox"/>	County Well Location Permit	DPS
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sediment Control Permit	DPS
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fire Department access and water supply plan - Operational Permit http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcfrs-code/permits.html#Operational	Department of Fire and Rescue Services (DFRS)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Alcoholic Beverage http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DLCLRE/Licensure/licenses.html	Department of Liquor Control (DLC)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Architectural Drawings submitted to Health and Human Services Architectural Drawings submitted to State of Maryland for chain restaurant Certified Food Manager http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs-special/LandRLicenseFoodService.html	Health and Human Services (HHS)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nutritional Labeling Law – Compliance http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs-special/LandREnviroHealthMenu.html	HHS

DPS – Department of Permitting Services

DLC – Department of Liquor Control, Division of Licensure, Regulation and Education

DFRS – Department of Fire and Rescue Services, Fire Code Compliance

HHS – Department of Health and Human Services, Licensure and Regulatory Services

CC – Circuit Court

NA – Not Applicable



**Montgomery County
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Restaurant Design Consultation Application

E. To be read by Applicant

Disclaimer - The design consultation is a discussion about a project and is not a part of the formal permit review process. As such, these discussions are not binding or official. An approval or concurrence by the specialist at the design consultation does not relieve the design professionals, building owners, or the tenants from compliance with the applicable code requirements, or limit the plan reviewers or inspectors from citing code violations.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Approvals may be required from the following agencies:

- [SHA](#) (State Highway Administration)
- [Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission](#)
- [WSSC](#) (Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission)
- [Department of Health and Human Services](#)
- Townships

Other Agencies to Contact

Other Agencies and Utilities to Contact	Allegheny Power
	Baltimore Gas & Electric Co. (BG&E)
	Historical Preservation
	International Code Council (ICC)
	Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation
	Miss Utility
	MNCPPC: Historic Area Work Permits
	MNCPPC: MC Atlas
	MNCPPC: Zoning
	Municipalities
	National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
	Potomac Electric Power Company (PEPCO)
	U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) by Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL)
	Verizon
	Washington Gas Light Co.
	WSSC

Meeting Schedule - Design consultations are scheduled for a **one-hour period** starting at your **scheduled meeting time**. In respect to our other clients the design consultation time period cannot be extended or held-over. In order to gain your maximum benefit, please ensure your entire design team is prompt.

F. Applicant's Signature

Applicant's Signature Date Print Name

