



Frequently Asked Questions

Permits and Licensing

What State Permits, Licenses, and Taxes are required?

Required permits and licenses are dependent upon type of business. Check the Michigan Business One-Stop at <http://www.michigan.gov/business> for information or call (877) 766-1779.

What City permits are required?

If you are planning any construction, if your development will occupy a building that has been vacant for twelve months (or more), or if your development is a change of use for a building, please contact Community Development at (269) 659-7230 to determine what permits may be necessary. Depending on your business, other City business permits may also be required. Contact edc@sturgismi.gov or (269) 659-7233 to see if any City permits are applicable.

Available Buildings and Land

What is the cost of industrial park land?

\$13,000 per acre with all lateral utilities available. The City currently has four industrial parks with property available. Visit www.sturgismi.gov/industrial-parks for more information on available property.

What office or retail space is currently available?

Availability of office and retail space is constantly changing. Please contact the Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce at (269) 651-5758 or at sturgischamber@charter.net for more information.

Incentives and Assistance

What incentives are available for my project?

A variety of State incentives or programs may be available, depending on the type of business you are in. We encourage you to visit the State of Michigan's Business One-Stop at www.michigan.gov/business for more information. You can also contact the City of Sturgis at edc@sturgismi.gov or (269) 659-7233 to discuss possible incentive programs.

What about other business assistance?

Please feel free to contact the City of Sturgis at edc@sturgismi.gov or (269) 659-7233 to discuss your needs and possible resources such as free expert advice from Small Business Development or Service Corps of Retired Executives (S.C.O.R.E.). The State of Michigan's Business One-Stop (www.michigan.gov/business) is also a great resource for questions or business assistance.

Zoning and Property Use

Who can tell me if my proposed use is allowed in the proposed location?

The Community Development Department can provide information on zoning. Call them at (269) 659-7230.

Who is responsible for interpretation of Zoning Code?

The Zoning Administrator is responsible for all zoning ordinance interpretations. Further review of the zoning interpretation may be requested of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Who can tell me if a building meets standards for a proposed use?

It is the responsibility of the potential or proposed building owner to hire a professional architect or engineer to research building deficiencies. The Building Official can tell owners or prospective occupants if and when such research is required.

Building Regulations**When do I need a Building Permit?**

The size and scope of your project determine the need for a building permit – most construction or rehabilitation projects will require a permit. The City of Sturgis has combined the building and zoning permit process and due to this reason, some projects that do not require building permits according to State Building Code may be required to have a building permit according to local zoning ordinance. Check with the Community Development Department at (269) 659-7230 to determine if your project requires a permit.

What do I need to obtain a Building Permit?

The information and documentation required for building permits varies with the scope of project. A list of requirements can be obtained at the Community Development Department (269) 659-7230.

Do I need architectural prints? Can I Sketch my own site and building plans?

As required by the State of Michigan, all non-residential and non-owner occupied residential projects require architecturally sealed site plans and building plans. Limited exceptions exist for projects of a minor nature such as signs, fences, roof repair etc. If you feel your project may fall into one of the exemption areas, contact the Community Development Department at (269) 659-7230 for a determination.

Do I need a licensed contractor?

All projects requiring permits, other than single-family residential, also require a Michigan-licensed building professional to be the official, responsible applicant on a building permit application. If you have questions, call the Community Development Department at (269) 659-7230.