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## **Columbia County offering electronic permitting**

*County joins state's one-stop Web service for construction contractors*

(Salem) — Obtaining construction permits in the Columbia County area just got easier — and a lot more convenient. Starting Friday, Feb. 20, Columbia County joins 29 other Oregon building departments in offering one-stop shopping for over-the-counter mechanical and electrical permits at [www.BuildingPermits.Oregon.gov](http://www.BuildingPermits.Oregon.gov).

The site allows contractors to apply and pay for multiple permits from multiple building departments through one convenient Web site at any time of the day or night, on workdays, weekends, and holidays.

“Columbia County is pleased to be able to offer online permitting to contractors. This means that what we have called ‘over the counter’ permits for electrical, mechanical, and plumbing work can now be obtained online from the convenience of the contractor’s office,” said Todd Dugdale, director of Land Development Services for the county. “Customer service is our top priority and Quick Permits is one way to demonstrate that it is important to us.”

The Department of Consumer and Business Services’ Building Codes Division hosts the Quick Permits e-permitting site, which makes simple permits available at any hour of the day, from any computer connected to the Internet. Contractors can apply and pay for multiple permits from multiple jurisdictions in one transaction.

“We love the service. It saves so much time,” said Joni Hacker of Ludeman’s Fireplace Shop in Beaverton. “We can get our authorization to begin work within a minute or two. Not having to write a check and mail it in is a real convenience. We recommend it to other contractors working in Columbia County.”

The development of e-permitting is part of Gov. Kulongoski’s regulatory streamlining initiative. The Governor signed House Bill 2405 into law in March 2007. The law expands Quick Permits to create the nation’s first comprehensive statewide e-building permit program, which will allow contractors to conduct more building department activities, such as receiving plan approval and scheduling inspections online, morning, noon, and night with any city or county in Oregon that participates.

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The Building Codes Division provides building code development, administration, inspection, plan review, licensing, and permit services to the construction industry to help ensure the safe and effective construction of structures in Oregon. For more information, visit [www.bcd.oregon.gov](http://www.bcd.oregon.gov).

The Department of Consumer and Business Services is Oregon’s largest business regulatory and consumer protection agency. For more information, visit [www.dcbs.oregon.gov](http://www.dcbs.oregon.gov).