



**Snohomish County**  
**County Executive's Office**

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## Snohomish County joins *e-permitting* system that's saving hundreds of thousands of dollars

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*Reardon hails MyBuildingPermit.com; alliance now serving  
one million citizens and businesses across Puget Sound*

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon's initiative to remake the County into a premier *e-government* is paying public dividends: Contractors are already saving time and money by filing building permits on-line.

For nearly a month now, contractors have been able to apply for a variety of permits by accessing MyBuildingPermit.com, a service whose reach across the central Puget Sound region more than doubled, to more than one million citizens and businesses, when Snohomish County joined on April 1.

"Our customers are quickly embracing *e-permitting*," Executive Reardon said. "They no longer have to fill out a form and drive it to the County Courthouse only to wait in line at a counter. Filing for a permit is now just a 'click' away.

"It saves both time *and* money."

MyBuildingPermit.com is a web site owned and managed by several cities in King and Snohomish counties that have pooled resources to provide the on-line permitting service. The Snohomish County Department of Planning and Development Services (PDS) is offering residential mechanical, residential plumbing and re-roofing permits via the Internet.

The system is proving more popular than officials anticipated. Original estimates were that 30 percent of the simple permits would be issued on-line during April. Already that figure has increased to 54 percent, with 72 permit applications coming in on-line and just 61 delivered the old-fashioned way – over the counter.

Licensed contractors and homeowners will be able to apply for a permit on-line, pay permit fees and obtain the permit without having to fax, e-mail, or mail the document to PDS.

Moreover, the permitting process will be exactly the same as the processes used by the other members of MyBuildingPermit.com – Bellevue, Bothell, Issaquah, Kenmore, Kirkland, Mercer Island, Sammamish, Snoqualmie and Woodinville.

“When it comes to installing a hot water heater or re-roofing a house, our citizens care little about the differences between living in Snohomish County or east of Lake Washington,” said Rich Conrad, city manager of Mercer Island and chair of the eCityGov Alliance, which sponsors MyBuildingPermit.com.

“All they are interested in is fast, accurate and convenient permitting.”

Conrad estimated that in 2004:

- MyBuildingPermit.com has saved contractors \$150,000, a figure that is expected to rise with Snohomish County’s entry;
- MyBuildingPermit.com issued more than 35 percent of the simple building permits for member jurisdictions;
- MyBuildingPermit.com issued over 7,000 permits representing construction valuation of \$450,000.

Executive Reardon noted that contractors and citizens can use the MyBuildingPermit.com web portal to obtain simple permits from member jurisdictions with just a single transaction. In addition, the site also provides access to a library of construction tip sheets, inspection check-lists and on-line permit status and history for properties located in member jurisdictions.

Craig Ladiser, PDS director, said, “With MyBuildingPermit.com, our customers will be able to significantly reduce the number of visits they’ll make to the County administration building. That will be more convenient for them and it will mean we can deploy our staff in other, more productive ways.”

Citizens interested in learning more about the process can log-on to MyBuildingPermit.com.

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