

Residential Property Improvement Basics

from the Foster City Community Development Department

Well-maintained property is part of what makes Foster City a great place to live.

1. Nearly all property improvements require a permit!

The permit process allows the City Council, Planning Commission and City staff to work closely with residents to ensure that public safety and the community's appearance are protected and that property values remain high in Foster City.

2. The City offers free pre-application reviews of all proposed property improvements.

At no cost, City staff will talk with property owners about proposed property improvements before the project begins. Through the pre-application review, property owners can take advantage of staff expertise before they hire an architect or spend any money. City staff will alert property owners to potential issues that they will have to address in their project planning and may be able to save owners both time and money.

3. Neighbors can learn more about proposed improvements from the City.

You don't have to be making improvements to your property for the City's review process to affect you. Notification policies ensure that neighbors are alerted to some property improvements that are proposed for their neighborhoods. Neighbors who are interested in knowing more about proposed improvements in their area have a right to that information and it is available in local newspapers or by contacting the Community Development Department.



RULE OF THUMB: Any time you are making an exterior physical change to property in Foster City, it is a good idea to contact the Community Development Department at 286-3225 or cdd@fostercity.org before you hire an architect or contractor or do any work on the property.

Foster City Community Development Department
610 Foster City Boulevard, Foster City, CA 94404
(650) 286-3225; cdd@fostercity.org