



# Building contractors need to be licensed by the Wisconsin Dept. of Commerce!

Construction businesses working in Wisconsin under the following codes need a contractor credential issued by the state Department of Commerce, Safety and Buildings Division - (codes covered) Electrical, Uniform Dwelling, Smoke Detectors, Passenger Ropeways, Amusement Rides, Gas Systems, Boilers and Pressure Vessels, Anhydrous Ammonia, Mechanical Refrigeration, Commercial Buildings, Plumbing, Public Swimming Pools, Sanitation.

- Licensing provides identification for state agencies to share info about who's claiming contractor tax status, paying for workers compensation and unemployment insurance -this supports fair competition.
- Contractors can get codes and training info.
- Property owners can find contractors who are not transient.
- On-the-job identification of contractors helps protect against employers misclassifying employees as subcontractors.

These are the contractor credentials the business may hold:

- Building Contractor Registration
- Dwelling Contractor Certification
- Dwelling Contractor-Restricted Certification
- Electrical Contractor Certification
- Electrical Contractor-Restricted Certification
- Elevator Contractor License
- HVAC Contractor Registration
- Liquefied Gas Supplier License
- Liquefied Gas Supplier-Restricted License
- Manufactured Home Dealer License
- Manufactured Home Installer License
- Manufactured Home Manufacturer License

> Work on one- and two-family dwellings is covered regardless of when the dwelling was built. Previously, work on dwellings built before 1979 was not involved.

> There are possible forfeitures of \$250 to \$1,000 for contractor companies which work without appropriate credentials or contractors which have the correct credentials but hire subcontractors which do not have the correct credentials.

## **The two most common contractor credentials in Wisconsin are the Dwelling Contractor Certification and the Building Contractor Registration.**

A Dwelling Contractor Certification is required for businesses to obtain a Uniform Dwelling Code (UDC) building permit. A Dwelling Contractor Certification (issued to the business - \$40) must be partnered with a Dwelling Contractor Qualifier Certification (issued to the individual - \$45) in order to get UDC permits. Both certifications are needed to pull UDC permits.

The Building Contractor Registration (BCR) is needed if a construction business, including a one-person business, does not have any other contractor credential and works under one of the 13 building construction codes. The work must affect a public building, place of employment, one- or two-family dwelling, or public swimming pool / water attraction. The BCR (which is for businesses, including, one-person businesses, not for individual employees) costs \$100 for four years.

**Building Contractor Registration:** <https://apps.commerce.wi.gov/credential-online-application/>

**Find credential application forms:** <http://commerce.wi.gov/SB/SB-FormCredAppList.html>