



Mariposa County Building Department

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AGENCY CONTACTS FOR SMALL BUSINESS STARTUP MARIPOSA COUNTY

In starting or relocating a small business there are many business and regulatory issues to consider. In trying to determine which Mariposa County offices to contact may give you a headache. Following are some of the Mariposa County contacts that may be required. Please keep in mind that a business license is not currently required in Mariposa County. This does not exclude Federal or State requirements.

1. If you are going to be doing any remodeling please contact the Mariposa County Building Department at 209-966-3934 for requirements and permit information.
2. For any exterior changes in architecture, building color, signage, building use including the serving of alcohol, please contact Mariposa County Planning Department at 209-966-5151 for what is allowed and permitting requirements. If you want to change the use and/or occupancy of the building, definitely contact both Building, Planning.
3. If you have a business idea that involves food service of any type (new or existing) you must also contact Mariposa County Environmental Health at 209-966-2220.
4. For any food service grease trap requirements Environmental Health and Mariposa Public Utilities District 209-966-2515 should be contacted within Mariposa. Within the Coulterville sewer district, please contact Environmental Health and Mariposa County Public Works at 209-966-2828. Grease traps on private systems would be an issue for Mariposa Environmental Health.
5. If you plan on changing a building's occupancy/use rating, let's say from an office building to a restaurant, there are a number of issues to consider. First contact Mariposa County Planning for proposed use issues as well as Building and Health. Per the California Building Code and Building Department, a California licensed Architect or Engineer will be required to assist you in the occupancy conversion by drawing plans and taking responsibility for all of the proper code issues associated with the change of occupancy.
6. The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) applies to your building whether it is new or old, existing or remodeled. Please consult with your Design Professional of choice for an overview, your responsibilities and liability. Both tenant and landlord have responsibilities and potential liability. Please keep in mind that the California Building Code "Accessibility for Existing Buildings" Section 1134B states that that you shall spend at least 20% of your building project valuation on the required ADA accessibility components as specified by building code.
7. As of July 1st, 2013 California ADA Law will require that a landlord shall disclose to a prospective tenant whether or not a commercial rental property has been ADA evaluated by a Certified Access Specialist (ADA specialist). Having a property not evaluated and brought into ADA compliance could pose more liability to all involved. A list of all of the California Certified Access Specialists can be found at; https://www.apps.dgs.ca.gov/casp/casp_certified_list.aspx. More ADA information can be found at The California State Architect web site; <http://www.dgs.ca.gov/dsa/Programs/programCert/casp.aspx>.
8. Please keep in mind that non-conforming ADA issues are considered civil rights violations and are ultimately enforced by the Courts.