

Girard Township Zoning Frequently Asked Questions

Last Updated: January 19, 2022

[Why do we have zoning?](#)

[What activities are subject to zoning?](#)

[How do I get a zoning permit?](#)

[How do I contact the Zoning Administrator?](#)

[Where do I find the setbacks that apply to my property?](#)

[Are there other limitations that apply to my property or my project?](#)

[What else does zoning apply to?](#)

Why do we have zoning?

Zoning serves several purposes to property owners, including, but not limited to:

- Limiting incompatible land uses (for instance, limiting necessary services like junk yards, landfills and other land uses that could be nuisances to residential areas);
- Creating uniformity in neighborhoods, assuring that buildings are adequately spaced (both for aesthetic and safety reasons) and that property owners are less likely to create nuisances for neighbors;
- Preserving essential elements and characteristics of a community, such as preserving agricultural land use or the commercial aspect of a downtown business area.

What activities are subject to zoning?

All new buildings of 100 square feet or larger require a zoning permit. Additionally, room additions, attached decks/ pergolas/ porches, and fences require a zoning permit.

Some improvements may require a building permit, but not a zoning permit, such as a new roof, new windows, interior remodeling, etc.

How do I get a zoning permit?

1. Contact the Zoning Administrator and request a zoning application.

2. You will complete the application and a “site plan” illustration. Your illustration will show your property lines, your proposed building/structure and the distance between property lines and the proposed building/structure (also called “setbacks”).
3. Submit the application, site plan and the zoning fee to the Zoning Administrator. Once approved, the Zoning Administrator will issue a signed zoning permit. The zoning permit can be used at the Health Department and Building Department for obtaining necessary permits to start your project.

How do I contact the Zoning Administrator?

By email: girardtowsnipzoning@gmail.com

By phone: 517-462-6355

Where do I find the setbacks that apply to my property?

Girard Township has published its Zoning Ordinance online at [Girard Township Zoning Ordinance](#). You will need to know how your property is currently zoned to determine what requirements will apply. Your Zoning Administrator can help you determine your current zoning.

Are there other limitations that apply to my property or my project?

There could be. Girard Township’s Zoning Ordinance does impose certain height limits on structures and there are limits on how much of a property may be covered by structures. You will need to know how your property is currently zoned to determine what requirements will apply. Your Zoning Administrator can help you determine your current zoning. Additionally, Girard Township also has the following ordinances, intended to curb safety issues and nuisances:

[Vehicle Storage and Repair Ordinance](#)

[Weed, Yard and Grass Ordinance](#)

[Litter and Junk Ordinance](#)

What else does zoning apply to?

Certain activities may be subject to zoning, such as operating a home business, installing a swimming pool, installing an outdoor furnace/boiler, or the keeping of livestock and farm animals. Operating a home-based business may also be subject to zoning. Your Zoning Administrator can assist you with these questions before you start your project.