

Inform Your Neighbours Before Construction Residential Project Guidelines

A successful building project (new builds, additions, renovations) starts before demolition or construction begins with open and direct communication between the home owner or contractor and their neighbours. Advance notice that a change is about to occur starts building trust in the community. City staff recommend the following guidelines, to help your project run smoothly, from start to final inspection.

Guidelines: (some items may not apply)

- Post the issued building permit on-site and ensure it is visible from the street.
- Communicate with adjacent home/property owners **before** the work starts so they are informed of the proposed project, the approximate timing and whether they can expect any disruption/inconvenience.
- Before commencing excavation, contact Ontario One Call to locate all of your utility lines.
- Before cutting or moving materials, advise neighbours if fences, trees, shrubs are going to be disturbed so they are aware in advance. Discuss the property limits so all parties are aware where the property line exists.
- Obtain permission, preferably written approval, prior to entering onto neighbouring properties to facilitate construction of your project. If you are aware that your construction can impact finished grading on the adjacent property, obtain permission from your neighbour. Take photos prior to commencing any work as a precaution. **Reminder:** a building permit is NOT a permission to enter onto adjacent property. Entering private property, without permission, is trespassing.
- When a demolition or construction site presents a potential hazard to the public, the contractor/owner must erect a fence to prevent injury or accident. Examples of hazards to the public include buildings subject to demolition or construction, excavations including post holes for piers/columns, etc. See St. Catharines Building by-law (www.stcatharines.ca/BuildingByLaw) available on the City's website for details on construction fencing.
- If the construction project is delayed, provide neighbours with updates. Building permit extension may also be required. Contact St. Catharines Planning and Building Services department if extension is required.
- The City's noise by-law prohibits noise that is likely to disturb the residents. Any construction noise occurring before 7:00am and after 11:00pm is not permitted. Inviting impacted neighbours to discuss any noise concerns directly with you may assist in preventing noise complaints to the City. Adhering to this bylaw will be appreciated by your neighbours - and it's the law.

Ontario One Call Before You Dig

If you are planning to dig, build, or excavate on your property, you are required by law to locate all of your utility lines first. It is important to complete this step to ensure safety for you and your community.

Phone: 1-800-400-2255

Website: [Ontario One Call](#)

Electrical Safety Authority

Doing electrical work? A notification must be filed with the Electrical Safety Authority. Hiring someone to do electrical work? They must be a Licensed Electrical Contractor. It's the law.

For electrical permits and related questions

Phone: 1-877-372-7233

Address: 400 Sheldon Drive Unit 1, Cambridge, ON N1T 2H9

Website: www.esasafe.com



Enbridge Gas

Phone: 1-888-427-8888

Address: 3401 Schmon Parkway, Thorold, ON L2V 5A8

Website: [Home | Enbridge Gas](#)

St. Catharines Storm and Sanitary Sewer

Please call CitizensFirst: 905-688-5600

Email: citizensfirst@stcatharines.ca

Alectra Utilities (Hydro)

Phone: 905-984-8961

Address: 340 Vansickle Road, St. Catharines, ON L2R 6P7

Website: [Alectra Utilities](#)

Access Across City Owned Land

Please call CitizensFirst: 905-688-5600

Email: citizensfirst@stcatharines.ca

Building Permit Inspections

Book by phone: 905-688-5601, extension 1660

City of St. Catharines Building By-law

Visit our website stcatharines.ca and search 'building by-law' OR use the link below.

www.stcatharines.ca/BuildingByLaw

City of St. Catharines Zoning By-law

Visit our website stcatharines.ca and search 'zoning by-law' OR use the link below.

<https://www.stcatharines.ca/ZoningBylaw/>