



General Permit Requirements for Bridges & Culverts

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What is a crossing?

A crossing is a bridge or culvert that is designed to allow the movement of people or equipment across streams, rivers, creeks, or irrigation ditches.

Why do crossings need permits?

Properly designed and constructed crossings ensure public safety and compliance with drainage and floodplain requirements.

Permit Requirements:

The permitting process for crossings involves coordination with a number of different entities and may require obtaining permits from these agencies.

1) Right-of-Way Construction Permit

If the proposed bridge or culvert is within a public right-of-way of a mainline County Road, a County [Right-of-Way Construction Permit](#) is required.

2) Access Permit

If the bridge or culvert is a new access point off of a County Road, an [Access Permit](#) is required.

3) Floodplain Development Permit

A [Floodplain Development Permit](#) is required if the bridge or culvert is located within a FEMA or local regulatory floodplain. Engineering analysis, certifications and Flood Review Board approval is required for new or substantially damaged/improved culverts and bridges within a regulatory floodplain. For more information on the Floodplain Development permit, go to

<http://www.larimer.org/engineering/floodplains.htm> or contact Eric Tracy at (970) 498-5729 or etracy@larimer.org or Crystal Lesmeister at (970) 498-5732 or clesmeister@larimer.org.

For detailed information on the technical requirements and processes for constructing a crossing, go to the [Bridges and Culverts handout](#).

4) Private Road Construction Permit

A Private Road Construction Permit is required for new private local access roads intended to serve multiple residences or businesses that serve the public.

A Private Road Construction Permit is not required for driveways accessing a single residence (single access roads). Although single access roads are not regulated by the County, landowners are still encouraged to use the guidelines in Appendix G of the Larimer County Rural Area Road Standards when designing and constructing their driveway.

[Appendix G of the County Rural Area Road Standards](#) has more information on the permit and includes design and construction standards for private local access roads. For permit issuance, contact the County Engineering Department at (970) 498-5700.



5) Development Construction Permit (DCP)

New culverts or bridges reviewed and approved as part of a land division or commercial development are to be constructed under a Development Construction Permit (DCP) and generally do not require a building permit. Please contact the development review engineer assigned to your project for more information regarding this permit.

6) Building Permit

A building permit is required for new construction of a crossing, or for repairs to a crossing, when the work is not already covered under a separate permit and when the proposed crossing meets any of the criteria below:

1. Any vehicular bridge, including a private bridge on private land
2. Any pedestrian bridge that is intended for public use
3. Any culvert or private pedestrian bridge that crosses a drainage shown on the County [Major Drainage Area of Interest Map](#).

A building permit for a crossing is not required for:

1. Any crossing constructed under another County Permit such as a Right-of-Way Construction Permit, Access Permit, or a Development Construction Permit.
2. A culvert crossing or private pedestrian bridge that is not within one of the drainages shown on the County [Major Drainage Area of Interest Map](#).

For information on the building permit submittal process and requirements for crossings, go to <http://larimer.org/building/> or contact Eric Fried, Chief Building Official, at (970) 498-7705 or at efried@larimer.org.

7) Irrigation Company Crossing Permit

Authorization is required from the appropriate irrigation company if the bridge or culvert is crossing an irrigation ditch. The applicant is responsible for contacting the [Irrigation Ditch Companies](#) directly to ensure they have received appropriate permissions to construct a crossing.

8) Other Permits and Permissions

The applicant is responsible for ensuring that they have received any other necessary easements and permissions from adjacent property owners and permits from other agencies. The 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE), Colorado Department of Health and Environment Stormwater Construction Permit, and access permits from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) are the most common additional permits that are required.

Contacts: (USACE) Denver Regulatory Office (303) 979-4120
(CDOT) NE Colorado Region 4 Office (970) 350-2163
CDPHE website (<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/news/water-quality-permits>)