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For immediate release:
July 15, 2010

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Homeowners have new tool to navigate permitting process

(Salem) – Determining whether you need a building permit for your next home improvement project just got easier.

The Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services Building Codes Division has launched a new Web site – www.permitsprotect.info – to help homeowners navigate the permitting process. The Web site features videos and resources that help homeowners figure out whether they need a permit, teach them how to obtain a permit, and provide tips on planning projects.

“Obtaining permits is extremely important to ensure the work is done safely and to protect the value of your home,” said Patrick Allen, administrator of the Building Codes Division. “Our goal is to be a resource both for people who are entering the world of building and remodeling for the first time and for those who are experienced but looking for specific pieces of information.”

By visiting the Web site, homeowners can learn which types of projects require permits. For example, a permit is required for installing a wood stove, replacing a water heater, and cutting a new window or door opening. However, you do not need a permit to install a six-foot-high fence, repair rain gutters, or replace a damaged electrical outlet.

In addition to providing information for homeowners, the Web site also includes links to resources for contractors and cities and counties.

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The Building Codes Division, part of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, provides building code development, administration, inspection, plan review, licensing, and permit services to the construction industry to help ensure the safe and effective construction of structures in Oregon.

The Department of Consumer and Business Services is Oregon's largest business regulatory and consumer protection agency. For more information, visit www.dcbs.oregon.gov.