

# News from Avon Township

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## **Contribution submitted for News from Avon Township – October 16, 2019**

Perhaps the question I get asked most often is, “Do I need a permit to *(fill in the blank)?*” This is a great question and here is a quick overview of the main types of permits required in Avon Township.

Building Permits – also called construction site permits, these permits are required if you construct any new structure or add on to an existing building by changing the building envelope in any way. A permit is not required for reroofing or re-siding unless, as stated, the building envelope is changed. These permits are obtained from Stearns County Environmental Services.

Driveway Permits – any new driveway that accesses a Township road requires a driveway permit. In addition, if you widen or otherwise change the footprint of your driveway, you will need a driveway permit. These are issued by the Township.

Certificate of Compliance – these permits are required for an assortment of land transfers. Typically you will be alerted to the need for one by Stearns County.

Variances – A variance is an exemption from a Township or County rule regarding setbacks and other issues. For example, if you want to construct a building closer to a road than is currently allowed. Before approving any variance, the Township must hold a public hearing to solicit public feedback. From start to finish, the process usually takes at least two months.

Conditional and Interim Use Permits – these permits provide approval for activities that are regulated by law. The main difference between the two is that there is a defined time period for the Interim Use permit. The process is similar to variances; the Township must hold a public hearing and it takes about two months.

To summarize, if you plan to build anything or modify your driveway, you will need a construction site permit and driveway permit, respectively. If you want to be granted an exemption from a rule, you need a variance. Conditional Use and Interim Use permits will allow you to be involved in an allowed, but regulated activity.

If you have any questions about permits, please contact me ([clerk@avontownship.org](mailto:clerk@avontownship.org)).

On a different subject, if you've driven on Norway Road lately you'll notice quite a bit of activity. We are resurfacing the road. We apologize for the inconvenience, but the good news is that it is only temporary and once completed, the road will be beautiful. The Township received a grant from MN DOT for this project so the Township has only had to pay a small portion of the expense. We are particularly grateful to Supervisor Will Huston for his work on the grant and this project.