



Solar Panels Mounted on Buildings

Ontario Building Code

Section 1.3.1.1 (f) Div A of the **Ontario Building Code** requires a building permit to be issued prior to the installation of any solar collector that is mounted on a building and has a face area equal to or greater than five square metres (50 square feet). For clarity, “face area” shall include the aggregate area of all panels or modules.

Building Permits

Applications for building permits shall be accompanied by a set of plans and specifications of the proposed installation designed by a Professional Engineer licensed in the Province of Ontario. An on-site field review of their installation shall be undertaken. Submissions are reviewed to ensure that the weight of the collector system including additional roof loads due to wind uplift, snow accumulation, and anchorage connections can be safely accommodated. It is important to note that reinforcement of existing structural components may be required to ensure the structural adequacy of the existing building.

A building permit is not required for solar collector system installations where:

- the panel is less than five square metres (50 square feet) in area
- the panel is not installed on a building and is not connected to a plumbing or mechanical heating system

Note:

Electrical permits and/or inspections available from the **Electrical Safety Authority (ESA)** may also be required. Proof of ESA compliance will be required by the Building department before finalizing the permit.

Submission requirements

Submissions must include:

- ❑ a roof plan indicating the layout and spacing of the solar collectors on the roof of the building
- ❑ typical cross-section including but not limited to system height, tilt angle, and attachments
- ❑ panel or module dimensions and manufacturers specifications including panel dead load and ballast (where applicable)
- ❑ mounting details clearly specifying panel attachment and specifications including framing reinforcement as may be required
- ❑ verification of existing roof or wall framing components affected by
- ❑ the proposed installation and the ability of the affected building structural system to accommodate all loads associated with the solar collector system including dead load, wind load, snow accumulation, and seismic load
- ❑ solar collector systems used to produce heat for water shall include mechanical drawings (plumbing schematic) detailing any connection to the potable water system
- ❑ a Commitment to General Review Form completed by a Professional Engineer
- ❑ building permit fees for solar panels installed on buildings are charged at a base fee of \$688 as per the **Township's Building Permits and Fees By-Law**

Contact us

Building department

Address: **1024 Hurlwood Lane, Severn**

Phone: **705-325-2315 x224**

Email: **building@severn.ca**

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