



St. Mary's County
Department of Land Use and Growth Management
Frequently Asked Questions

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FAQ #14: How long will it take to get my permit?

Many permits for projects outside of the Critical Area are “on-demand” and may be obtained the same day you apply. If the property is served by a well/septic, the Health Dept will have to complete a review, and it is not guaranteed to be an on-demand review with their agency. These include permits for:

- A deck, or open/screened porch
- A pool
- An attached garage, carport or breezeway
- Renovating an unfinished basement or other floor
- Renovating interior finished living space
- An addition which does not create additional living space on a septic system
- A detached accessory structure without plumbing
- Any renovation or addition on property served by public sewer
- A Charlotte Hall farmers market permit.

“Drop-off” permit applications require additional review time. These include applications for:

- Any proposed construction or disturbance within the Critical Area (60-90 days)
- A single family, two family, or accessory dwelling (30-60 days)
- Any renovation or addition which creates additional living space if the property is served by a septic system (30-60 days)
- A detached accessory structure with plumbing (30-60 days)
- A soil percolation (perc) test (scheduled by Health Department)
- Clearing your land (30-60 days)
- A home occupation permit (5 days)

Incomplete applications or changes to an application in process will extend the period for review.