

Getting started

Your first job when planning a new build, an extension to your home or a commercial development is to find out what's required when building and renovating in New Zealand.

You will be better prepared and the build can run more smoothly if you know:

Your rights and obligations



It pays to know your rights and obligations in the building process so you can protect yourself and others within the law.

Find out what you and others need to do to help the project run smoothly and what to do if things don't go to plan.

Learn more about your rights and obligations
(<https://www.building.govt.nz/getting-started/your-rights-and-obligations/>)

Get informed

- > Homeowner rights and obligations (<https://www.building.govt.nz/getting-started/your-rights-and-obligations/homeowner-rights-and-obligations/>)
- > Builder and designer rights and obligations (<https://www.building.govt.nz/getting-started/your-rights-and-obligations/builder-and-designer-rights-and-obligations/>)
- > Building owner rights and obligations (<https://www.building.govt.nz/getting-started/your-rights-and-obligations/building-owner-rights-and-obligations/>)

The building process

Every building project is different, but you still need to tick off essential stages to make it a success. Understand the stages of a building project so you know what you need to do and build it right.

Learn about the building process (<https://www.building.govt.nz/getting-started/stages-of-the-building-process/>)

Scope and design

- > [Stages of the building process \(https://www.building.govt.nz/getting-started/stages-of-the-building-process/\)](https://www.building.govt.nz/getting-started/stages-of-the-building-process/)
- > [Renovations differ to new builds \(https://www.building.govt.nz/getting-started/stages-of-the-building-process/renovations-differ-to-new-builds/\)](https://www.building.govt.nz/getting-started/stages-of-the-building-process/renovations-differ-to-new-builds/)
- > [Understand your land so you design well \(https://www.building.govt.nz/getting-started/stages-of-the-building-process/understand-your-land/\)](https://www.building.govt.nz/getting-started/stages-of-the-building-process/understand-your-land/)
- > [Check if you need consents \(https://www.building.govt.nz/projects-and-consents/planning-a-successful-build/scope-and-design/check-if-you-need-consents/\)](https://www.building.govt.nz/projects-and-consents/planning-a-successful-build/scope-and-design/check-if-you-need-consents/)

Top tips

Plan well, thinking about how the build will work for you now and in the future (and for future owners).

- > [Top tips for a successful build \(https://www.building.govt.nz/getting-started/stages-of-the-building-process/top-tips-for-building/\)](https://www.building.govt.nz/getting-started/stages-of-the-building-process/top-tips-for-building/)

How the building system protects you



All building work in New Zealand must meet certain requirements, even if it doesn't need a building consent. This ensures our buildings are safe, healthy and durable which means we all can have confidence in their performance.

Learn how the building system protects you (<https://www.building.govt.nz/getting-started/how-the-building-system-protects-you/>)

The consent process

Councils grant building consent applications when they are confident your proposed work will meet the requirements of the Building Code.

- > [How the building system protects you \(https://www.building.govt.nz/getting-started/how-the-building-system-protects-you/\)](https://www.building.govt.nz/getting-started/how-the-building-system-protects-you/)
- > [Roles of councils and MBIE \(https://www.building.govt.nz/getting-started/how-the-building-system-protects-you/roles-of-councils-and-mbie/\)](https://www.building.govt.nz/getting-started/how-the-building-system-protects-you/roles-of-councils-and-mbie/)