

Urban Residential Approaches

E-4

How do I determine an urban approach?

If your street has a curb, or a curb and sidewalk, you have an urban approach to your driveway.

Why do I need a permit for an urban approach?

A permit is required so that the county may inspect the forms for the apron prior to the pour. Also, to make sure there are no rough edges left from the curb cut or damage to the asphalt.

Am I allowed to cut the curb?

If you wish to cut the curb or hire a contractor that is not bonded and insured with Spokane County to do the work then it will be necessary to leave a cash surety in lieu of bond. The check will be deposited in an account and will be refunded to you after the county approves the final inspection.

I have a friend that is a contractor and has a bond with his state contractors license, may I use him to cut the curb?

You may, but you will still need to post a surety unless the contractor also has a street obstruction bond with Spokane County.

Does the county have a list of bonded contractors?

There is a list which is for county use only. If you wish to submit a list of contractors names, we can tell you which ones are bonded with Spokane County.

If a contractor has a street obstruction bond with the City of Spokane, is that acceptable?

The bond is only valid when working on the city right of way.

Once the curb drop is in, may I add crushed rock instead of pouring an apron?

Crushed rock is only allowed where there is no curb. If there is any kind of curb, standard, rolled, asphalt, etc., then a concrete or asphalt apron is required.

Do I have to have concrete or asphalt pave all of the driveway?

Only the portion in the county right of way. (See handout BP-17, "Private Driveway Standards" for further information.

When does the approach need to be inspected?

When the forms are complete prior to pouring the concrete.

How do I request an inspection?

Call the Division of Engineering and Roads at least two working days in advance and schedule an inspection with the dispatcher. Be sure you have your permit number available.

How wide should a residential approach be?

It may be 16 to 30 feet wide.

Is it possible to have an approach wider than 30 feet?

Request a design deviation form. There is a charge for this process.

If I want to widen an existing approach, do I need a permit?

Yes, and it will require an inspection by the county.

Is there a limit as to how many driveways a residence may have?

The total width of all driveways on a street for any one ownership shall not exceed 50% of the frontage of that ownership along the street and shall not be more than two in number unless first approved by the county engineer.

How close to my property line may I have the driveway?

No driveway shall be located closer than seven and one-half feet from any property line.

How close to an intersecting street may the driveway be located?

No closer than 20 feet from the tangent curb line of a side or intersecting street.

What grades are acceptable?

Driveway approach grades within right of way shall not exceed 8% (a rate of rise or descent of 2 feet in 100 feet) in rural areas. Driveway grades shall not exceed ten percent within ten feet of a county road right of way.

There is an existing curb drop on my lot that does not line up with the future location of my garage, what do I need to meet county requirements?

When your new approach is constructed, it will be necessary to close the original drop with curb or curb and sidewalk. You may keep the original curb drop as long as your total width of driveways on the street does not exceed 50% of your frontage and you install an apron at the same time the driveway for the garage is constructed.

There is a utility pole where I would like to have my approach, is it possible to get the pole moved?

Contact the public facility responsible for the utility pole but be advised that all costs for the relocation shall be borne by the applicant.

What should the length and thickness of the concrete apron be?

See handout A-7, "Cement Concrete Approaches."

Am I allowed to take out a permit for a friend or relative?

Yes, but be advised that the person signing the permit is the one responsible for completing the requirements..

For information or an appointment contact:

Spokane County Public Works Dept.

Division of Engineering and Roads

1026 W. Broadway Avenue

Spokane, Washington 99260-0170

(509) 477-3600