

THE HAMMER

Delaware County Department of Building Safety Quarterly Newsletter



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Year to Date Statistics

Single Family Homes:	370
Residential Alterations:	124
Residential Equipment Change Outs:	1,033
Swimming Pools:	69
Decks:	82
Commercial Multi-Family:	22
Commercial Alterations:	54
Commercial Signs:	30
Inspections Performed:	12,701
Residential Plan Reviews Completed:	1,352
Commercial Plan Reviews Completed:	485

YEAR TO DATE STATISTICS

BACKYARD SAFETY

BUILDING SAFETY PROCLAMATION

UPCOMING HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

BACKYARD SAFETY

Backyard Safety Tips:

- Practice constant, adult supervision around any body of water, including pools and spas. Nationally, drowning is a leading cause of death to children under five.
- If you're considering a swimming pool purchase, contact your local Building Department first to determine exactly what permits are needed and what requirements you must follow.
- In-ground and above-ground pools, including inflatable pools holding more than 24 inches of water, must be surrounded by a fence or other barrier at least four feet high. Any gates in the fence must be self-closing and self-latching.
- Reserve a spot on a wall or fence near the pool for lifesaving devices, including a portable or mobile telephone.
- Steps and ladders for above-ground pools should be secured or removed when the pool is not in use.
- Use a cover for the pool when it is not in use.
- Make sure drain covers are properly fitted and paired or have vacuum suction releases to prevent being trapped under water.
- Consider installing a pool alarm that can alert if someone enters the pool.
- Spa water temperatures should be set to 104 degrees Fahrenheit or lower to avoid elevated body temperature, which could lead to drowsiness, unconsciousness, heat stroke or death.
- Designate the grilling area as a "No Play Zone" and keep kids and pets well away until grill equipment is completely cool.
- Check propane cylinder hoses for leaks before use.
- Do not move hot grills.
- Never add charcoal starter fluid when coals or kindling have already been ignited, and never use any flammable or combustible liquid other than charcoal starter fluid to get the fire going.
- Don't leave toys, tools and equipment in the yard.
- Keep steps, sidewalks and patios in good repair.
- Check all swings, slides, playhouses and other structures for sharp objects, rusty metal pieces, breaks or weakened support pieces.

Decks and Balconies:

Balconies can be at risk of collapsing if they are not properly constructed or if they are old. A common safety hazard occurs when balconies are nailed to buildings rather than being attached with the proper anchors or bolts. Nails are a poor method for attaching balconies to buildings because they work their way loose over time

Building or repairing to code, which requires a building permit and an inspection, will help ensure that the balcony is safe.

The International Codes specify the amount of weight a balcony is required to support. However, be careful not to allow the balcony to become overcrowded. If the people on the structure have difficulty moving about, the balcony could be exceeding its capacity.



Grills:

Grilling on or near combustible areas can be a fire hazard. It not only puts your family and visitors at risk, but, especially in condos and apartment buildings, can put your neighbors in danger as well. The most common grilling hazards are open flames and heat generated in the grill base that can be transferred to the wood of a balconies or the home's siding, causing a fire. The International Fire Code prohibits the use of charcoal and gas grills and other open burning devices on combustible balconies or within 10 feet of combustible construction. There are exceptions for certain homes and where buildings, balconies and decks are protected by an automatic sprinkler system.

BUILDING SAFETY MONTH



Commissioners issued a proclamation recognizing May as Building Safety Month. Representatives from the Delaware County Building Safety Department joined the Commissioners to highlight the work we do to keep our community safe, strong, and connected.

Upcoming Holiday Schedule



Juneteenth

Friday, June 19, 2026

Independence Day

Friday, July 3, 2026