



Energy Storage Permitting Guidebook

An initiative by the California Energy
Commission's Electric Program
Investment Charge (EPIC) Program



Home Energy Storage: What You Need to Know About Permitting

Power on your terms

A home energy storage system lets you bank electricity and use it when you need it most—during a power outage or when utility rates are high. You can charge your battery when rates are lowest and draw from it later to save money and increase your energy independence.

A home battery system must be installed by a licensed contractor and permitted by your local building department, also known as the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ).

Finding a qualified installer

A trusted, experienced installer will guide you through the permitting process from start to finish.

- Look for licensed C-10 electrical contractors with experience in energy storage.
- Check listings through your local AHJ, utility, or California's Self-Generation Incentive Program approved installer database (selfgenca.com).
- Ask contractors for references or examples of prior projects.

How permitting works

Before installation begins, your contractor must submit plans for review to your local AHJ. Permitting might sound bureaucratic, but it's a vital safeguard that ensures battery systems are installed safely and perform as designed.

A home battery is quickly becoming a household necessity, offering protection from outages and control over energy costs.

Through permitting, your local agency confirms that the system:

- Meets California building and electrical codes
- Protects your family and property
- Promotes public safety and grid reliability

What to expect: typical process flow

Installing a home battery is a collaborative effort among your contractor, the local AHJ, and state standards—all working together to keep your installation safe and reliable. Here's how the process usually goes:

1. Your contractor designs the system and submits project plans for review.
2. The AHJ reviews and issues a permit if everything complies with code.
3. Installation is completed according to the approved plans.
4. An AHJ inspector visits your home to verify safety and code compliance.
5. Final approval is granted, giving you permission to operate your system.

What codes and standards apply?

Your local AHJ reviews energy storage projects using several key California codes and national safety standards. Together, they ensure systems are installed safely and perform reliably.

During review, your local AHJ checks compliance with several key codes and standards:

- **California Residential Code (Part 2.5 of Title 24)** – Governs installations, including technology certifications, installation spacing and siting.
- **California Electrical Code (Part 3 of Title 24)** – Covers electrical aspects of energy storage systems.
- **California Energy Code (Part 6 of Title 24)** – Sets energy efficiency requirements and governs certain installation elements.
- **UL 9540 Certification (UL 9540 listed)** – Ensures that the system meets national standards for safe operation.
- **UL 9540A Test Method** – Tests battery performance under extreme fire conditions for safety assurance.

Before you begin

Permitting ensures your system is safe, reliable and installed correctly—protecting your investment and your family. Before you start, talk with your contractor or local AHJ about what's required in your area.

Find more information on the following topics in the Guidebook:

- Codes and Standards
- Permitting Best Practices
- Standard Energy Permitting Processes
- Electronic and Automated Permitting Systems



Energy Storage Permitting Guidebook

Free at EnergyStorageCA.com

Training & Technical assistance

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Disclaimer: information provided on this fact sheet does not necessarily cover all requirements impacting energy storage permitting. Check with your contractor or local AHJ for current requirements.