



**City of Portage**  
**Building Department**  
6070 Central Avenue, Portage, Indiana 46368  
Telephone (219) 762-4204 Fax (219) 764-5749

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## REQUIREMENTS FOR GARAGES, SHEDS AND POOLS

When applying for permits, bring a site plan showing where your primary structure is located, property & easement lines, any impervious surfaces, and any other structures on your property. For detached garages we will need a drawing of the wall section.

**Detached garage and shed requirements:**

- 1) Both must be 6 feet from the main structure.
- 2) Both must be placed in the side or rear yards.
- 3) They can be no closer than 3 feet from the property lines (including overhangs).
- 4) Neither can be placed on an easement.
- 5) Both have a maximum height of 18 feet at the highest point of the roof.

In no case may a detached structure in a single-family area exceed 840 square feet nor may the total of more than one detached structure exceed 840 square feet. Each single-family lot is only permitted two detached structures.

Structures up to 721 square feet may be constructed with a monolithic foundation, footing and floor system. For details of monolithic footing & foundations cross-section see the building department handout. For structures larger than 721 square feet, the requirements of the International Residential Code, 2003 edition apply.

Sheds are permitted to be up to 200 square feet with no restrictions on floors, foundations, etc. When a shed is larger than 200 square feet, it must conform to the detached garage requirements.

In structures utilizing monolithic floor systems, the water, sanitation systems and permanent heating facilities may be installed when flexible connections are provided. Size 6 X 6 welded wire fabric or its equal is required when a monolithic slab footing system is used.

**Swimming pool requirements:**

- 1) Pools may only be placed in the rear or side yards.
- 2) Must be located a minimum of 10 feet from the property lines.
- 3) Must be located a minimum of 6 feet from another structure.
- 4) Must be located a minimum of 10 feet horizontally from overhead power lines.
- 5) Must have 22 feet vertical clearance from overhead power lines.
- 6) Must be located a minimum of 5 feet from underground power lines.
- 7) Cannot be located over underground gas lines.
- 8) Cannot be located on an easement.
- 9) Must be surrounded by a 6 foot fence, the fence may enclose the pool only or yard in which it is located.