

**Section 15-62 Expiration of Permits.**

(a) Zoning, special use, conditional use, and sign permits shall expire automatically if, within two years after the issuance of such permits: **(AMENDED 5/26/81)**

- (1) The use authorized by such permits has not commenced, in circumstances where no substantial construction, erection, alteration, excavation, demolition, or similar work is necessary before commencement of such use; or
- (2) Less than ten percent of the total cost of all construction, erection, alteration, excavation, demolition, or similar work on any development authorized by such permits has been completed on the site. With respect to phased development (see Section 15-61), this requirement shall apply only to the first phase.

(b) If, after some physical alteration to land or structures begins to take place, such work is discontinued for a period (i) of one year if the date of discontinuance occurs more than one year after the issuance of the permit, or (ii) equal to two years less the time between the issuance of the permit and the time work is discontinued if the date of discontinuance occurs less than one year after the issuance of the permit, then the permit authorizing such work shall immediately expire. However, expiration of the permit shall not affect the provisions of Section 15-63.

(c) The permit-issuing authority may extend for a period up to two years the date when a permit would otherwise expire pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) if it concludes that (i) the permit has not yet expired, (ii) the permit recipient has proceeded with due diligence and in good faith, and (iii) conditions have not changed so substantially as to warrant a new application. Successive extensions may be granted for periods of up to two years upon the same findings. All such extensions may be granted without resort to the formal processes and fees required for a new permit. **(AMENDED 06/23/15)**

(d) For purposes of this section, a permit within the jurisdiction of the Board of Aldermen or the board of adjustment is issued when such board votes to approve the application and issue the permit. A permit within the jurisdiction of the zoning administrator is issued when the earlier of the following takes place: **(AMENDED 11/10/81)**

- (1) A copy of the fully executed permit is delivered to the permit recipient, and delivery is accomplished when the permit is hand delivered or mailed to the permit applicant; or
- (2) The zoning administrator notifies the permit applicant that the application has been approved and that all that remains before a fully executed permit can be delivered is for the applicant to take certain specified actions, such as having the permit executed by the property owner so it can be recorded if required under G.S. 15-46(c).

(e) Notwithstanding any of the provisions of Article VIII (Nonconforming Situations), this section shall be applicable to permits issued prior to the date this section becomes effective.