Electric Patio Heater Permit Checklist Portland

1. Do You Need a Permit?

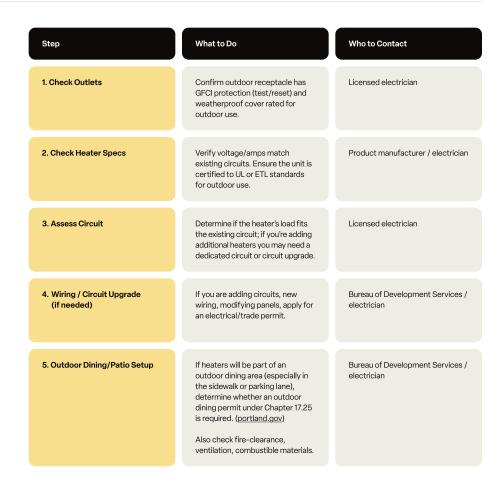
You likely do NOT need a permit if:

- You are simply plugging a UL-listed portable or wall-mounted outdoor electric heater into an
 existing outdoor receptacle with no new wiring or circuit changes.
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 existing outdoor receptacle with no new wiring or circuit changes.

You likely DO need a permit if:

- Electrical permits are required for installing or modifying wiring, circuits, panel upgrades.
 portland.gov
- You are changing mechanical or heating equipment (even electric) that constitutes a
 mechanical trade work. The City of Portland Bureau of Development Services Outdoor Dining
 Program guidelines note that use of some outdoor heaters (especially propane) may require
 Fire Bureau permit.
 - → portland.gov
- You are using an outdoor area for dining/heating in the public right-of-way or sidewalk/parking lane (which triggers additional permits under Chapter 17.25 "Outdoor Dining").
 - → portland.gov

2. Quick Checklist for Installing Electric Patio Heaters





3. Permit Checklist and Timelines

Step	What to Do	Who to Contact
1. Hire a Licensed Electrician	Engage an electrician licensed (Oregon CCB + electrical license) for the work. (portland.gov)	Business owner
Electrician Applies for Electrical/Trade Permit	Use the <u>Bureau of Development</u> <u>Services (BDS) DevHub</u> or file via email/in-person. For work involving wiring/circuits outdoors, follow the "Do You Need a Permit?" guidelines.	BDS (503-823-7300)
3. Secure Permit & Conduct Work	Permit issued, job card obtained, inspections scheduled and passed.	Electrician / <u>BDS</u>
4. Outdoor Dining / Fire Review (if applicable)	If heater usage is part of outdoor dining or in public right-of-way, secure outdoor dining permit and verify Fire Bureau requirements (e.g., clearance, fuel type, usage in public sidewalk).	Portland Fire Bureau / Outdoor Dining Program (503-823-7373)
5. Install Heaters	After approval, install heaters per manufacturer instructions. Keep permit/inspection documentation on site.	Business owner / Electrician

4. Pro Tips

- If you use the sidewalk or parking lane for outdoor dining & heaters, make sure you have the correct permit under Chapter 17.25 (Outdoor Dining) so you're compliant.
- Even if you are only installing plug-in heaters, ensure you have outdoor-rated wiring/outlets and safe circuit capacity.
- If you are using heaters other than electric (e.g., propane), you'll need additional fire permits (Portland Fire Bureau portable propane device permit, etc.).
 - → portland.gov
- Portable electric heaters may still require permits if they alter wiring or circuit. Oregon Electrical Safety rules say permanent wiring or devices need a permit.
 - → oregon.gov

Compiled from public permitting sources (2025 update). This is general information, not legal advice.

