5 Steps to Obtaining Your Alabama Residential General Contractor's License

Step 1. Sign up for the exam.

The state of Alabama requires any general contractor working on residential projects costing $10,000.00 ore more to get a license. The state sells a license package, for a small fee, that includes the license application and a candidate information bulletin. Send a written request and a check for $25 to:

Request a license package from:

Homebuilders Licensure Board
400 South Union Street, Suite 195
Montgomery, AL 36130-3605
Tel: (334) 242-2230
Fax: (334) 263-1397
http://www.hblb.state.al.us/

To obtain a residential contractor's license, you must pass an exam given by PSI Examination Services. PSI has four testing centers located Alabama: Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, and Montgomery. PSI will make every effort to schedule the examination site and time that is most convenient for you.

For information on the exam, contact:

PSI Examination Services
3210 E. Tropicana Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89121
(800) 733-9267
www.psiexams.com

Application, Exam, and License Fees: You can obtain an application package from the board for $25. When you apply to this Board you must provide a $35 check payable to the Holloway Credit Bureau Company for a credit report. The exam will cost $98. The license costs $205 and it expires December 31.

Step 2. Purchase the required books for your exam.

To find out what documents and books the State of Alabama requires for this exam, follow this link to your state's exam page of our website http://www.constructionbook.com/contractor-license/alabama/index.asp. You must purchase these documents and books in preparation for the exam.

Step 3. Start studying!

To fully prepare for your exam it is best to thoroughly study the required documents and books, as well as any recommended studying materials. The amount of preparation time needed will be different for each individual. Be sure to allow yourself enough time to fully prepare for the exam.

Step 4. Follow the rules.

PSI requires that you present two forms of ID when you appear for your exam. One ID must be government issued (Driver's license, State ID or Military ID) and must have a picture or a complete physical description. Both must have a signature and pre-printed name, which matches the name in our records.

The following security procedures will apply during the examination:

- Cell phones, pagers, and guests are not allowed in the examination site. This policy is strictly enforced.
- Any individual papers that are not part of a paper-back, ring-binder, spiral binder, or loose leaf binder type of book, or part of a multi-paged CMR, MGL, UL, or NFPA documents as described in this section MUST be removed prior to entering the examination area.
- Non-programmable, non-printing, silent, battery-operated, non-alphabet key calculators will be permitted.
- Copies of the books and references required for the open-book portions of the exam will be admitted into the exam room. They may be tabbed or un-tabbed and may contain highlighted or underlined sections or paragraphs of the original text.

Step 5. Good luck on the exam!

The exam is open book and is made 80 questions that you will be allowed four hours to complete. The examination will be administered on a computer-assisted testing (CAT) system. PSI advises that you must arrive at least 30 minutes before your exam's scheduled start time.

The exam is broken down into the following sections:

Subject area	No. of questions
Sitework, Footings, and Foundations	8
Concrete and Concrete Reinforcement	5
Masonry	5
Carpentry	8
Associated Trades and Drywall	6
Roofing	3
Estimating, Plan Reading, and General Code Requirements	12
OSHA Safety	3
Licensing	6
Estimating and Bidding	3
Liens	1
Financial	3
Payroll and Taxes	3
Personnel and Labor	3
Project Management	2
Contracts	4
Business Organization	1
Risk Management	2
Safety Recordkeeping and Environmental	2