

5 Steps to Obtaining Your South Carolina Residential Building Contractor's License

Step 1. Sign up for the exam.

In order to qualify to take this test, candidates must have a minimum of one year of work experience under the supervision of a licensed residential builder. The first step in the licensing process is to submit an application to the Residential Contractors Licensing Board documenting your experience and financial information. Once approved, you may take the necessary exams.

To get an application for a residential builder's license, contact:

South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
Residential Builders Commission
Synergy Business Park, Kingtree Building
110 Centerview Dr., Suite 102
Columbia, SC 29210
(803) 896-4696
Fax: 803-896-4404
<http://www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/ResidentialBuilders/>

License fees: The licensing fee for the Residential Builder is \$110. There is also an application fee of \$135. The application fee must be sent with the application when seeking pre-approval however, the license fee is not due until after the exams are passed. The fee for the trade portion of the exam is \$90. If the Residential Business and Law Exam and the Residential Builder Exam are taken at the same time, the fee is \$90 for both. The cost is higher if taken separately.

Applications will be processed in 2 to 4 weeks from the time they are received. Exams are administered by PSI Exam Services, and SC testing sites are located in Greenville/Spartanburg, Columbia, Charleston, Beaufort/Hilton Head, Myrtle Beach, and Charlotte. To get an application for a license, contact PSI Exams at:

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

Once you have passed your test, you must submit an application to the state licensing board with documentation of your experience, financial information, and your passing test scores.

South Carolina currently has a reciprocity agreement with North Carolina for this license.

Step 2. Purchase the required books for your exam.

To find out what documents and books the State of South Carolina requires for this exam, follow this link to the list of documents and books on your state's exam page of our website: <http://www.constructionbook.com/contractor-license/south-carolina/index.asp>. You must purchase these documents and books in preparation for the exam and bring them with you on testing day for the open book portions of 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.

The following security procedures will apply during the exam:

- 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!

It is best that you arrive at the examination site at least 15 minutes prior to your scheduled exam time on the day of testing. Be sure to bring at least one form of valid picture identification that has been issued by a state or federal authority.

There are 80 questions on this open-book examination. You will be required to answer 56 questions correctly in order to pass. You will be given 4 hours to complete the exam.

All Residential Building Contractor candidates will also be required to pass the Business Management and Law for Contractors Examination. This exam consists of 50 questions, of which you must answer 35 correctly in order to pass. You will be given 2 hours to complete this examination.