



Engineering Department  
Publications

## Driveway Permits

### Applicability

Driveways within the unincorporated areas of La Plata County require a driveway permit. Exceptions for driveway permits can be found in Section 74-97 (b)

### For Additional Information:

**La Plata County  
Engineering Department  
1060 Main Ave, Suite 104  
Durango, CO 81301  
(970) 382-6363**

[engineeringpermits@co.laplata.co.us](mailto:engineeringpermits@co.laplata.co.us)

## La Plata County Driveway Access Permits

Planning for access by emergency vehicles improves safety for homeowners and their families by providing for a more efficient response by firefighters and other emergency personnel when they arrive on scene. The intent of the La Plata County driveway standard is to provide safe and adequate access for emergency responders to protect the health, safety and welfare of the community.

### Driveway Permit Process

- ⚠ Obtain permit application from La Plata County Engineering Department or Online at: <http://bit.ly/LPCDriveway>
- ⚠ Flag proposed driveway connection where it will intersect the adjacent road.
- ⚠ Deliver completed Permit Application, license agreement (County Roads Only), site plan and \$100 permit fee to:
  - ⚠ **La Plata County Engineering, 1060 Main Ave., Suite 104, Durango CO 81301.**
- ⚠ La Plata County Driveway inspector will visit site and note any special requirements on the permit.
- ⚠ Conditional approval and permit can be picked up from Engineering Dept. Conditional approval is valid for one year from date of approval.
- ⚠ Permit shall be available on-site during the driveway construction.
- ⚠ Once driveway is complete, call Engineering Dept. at (970) 382-6363 to schedule the final inspection.
- ⚠ Permit is not finally approved until driveway is completed and inspected.

### Waivers

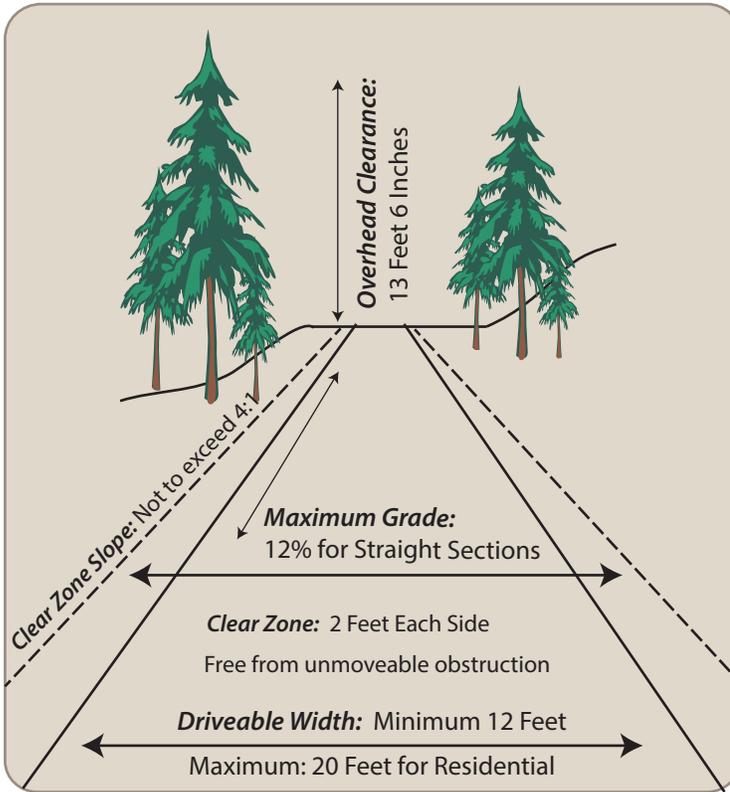
An applicant may submit a written request for a waiver of any general standard to the Public Works Director. The applicant is encouraged to meet with the applicable fire district.

### Mitigating factors to consider may include:

- ⚠ **Substantial defensible space measures,**
- ⚠ **Adequate on-site water supply capable of supplying fire flow for fire protection,**
- ⚠ **Internal automatic fire sprinkler systems,**
- ⚠ **Paving of the driveway, and**
- ⚠ **Fire-resistant building construction types.**



# Driveway Width, Clear Zones, Surfacing, Grade and Overhead Clearance



-  **Overhead Clearance:** 13 Feet 6 Inches
-  **Maximum Grade:**  
12% for Straight Sections
-  **Driveable Width:** Minimum 12 Feet  
Maximum: 20 Feet for Residential - 30 Feet Commercial
-  **Clear Zone:**  
Width: 2 Feet Each Side  
Free from unmovable obstruction  
Do not need to be surfaced  
Slope: Not to exceed 4:1
-  **Surface:**  
Minimum 4 inches, class 6 aggregate  
placed on 12 inches of compactable subgrade  
to ensure support for 60,000 lb vehicle

## Curved Section with Centerline Radius of 150 Feet or Less

-  Width: Minimum 16 Feet  
Clear Zone: 2 Feet, both sides, unobstructed  
Maximum Grade: 10%

## Curved sections less than 100 feet in length that do not exceed 90 degree change in direction can:

-  Maintain a maximum 12% grade.  
Maintain a surface width of 12 feet.

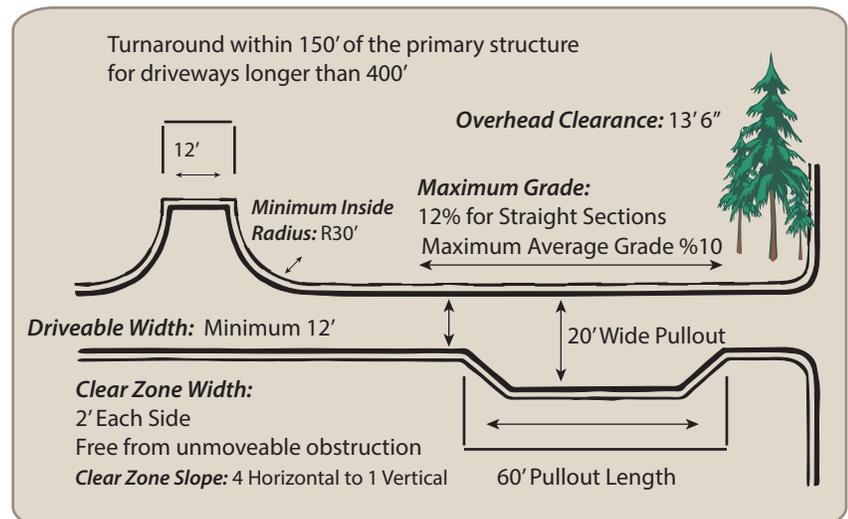
## Turnouts

Driveways longer than 800 feet shall provide a turnout every 400 feet as measured from the access road. Turnouts must meet surfacing requirements for driveways, shall be sixty (60) feet in length and provide twenty (20) feet in surface width with reasonable tapering and two (2) foot clear zones.

Driveways 1,000 feet or less in length with an unobstructed line of sight from the adjacent road to the structure shall not be required to construct turnouts.

## Turnarounds

Driveways longer than 400 feet shall provide a turnaround within 150 feet of the nearest point of the primary dwelling unit. Where required, the turnaround shall allow a 35 foot long emergency vehicle to turn around.



**For additional information, to apply for a permit, or to obtain a copy of Resolution #2014-40 Driveway Standards, visit:** <http://bit.ly/LPCDriveway>