



Need a building permit for your business improvements?

Get your project off to a **FAST START**

If you are planning to make improvements or alterations to an existing commercial building, consider using **FAST START Plan Check**. It's a way to "fast track" the processing of your building permit application so you can get your project underway quickly.

Projects qualifying for FAST START plan check at the time of initial application for a building permit will **go to the front of the plan check line** (immediately following any other FAST START plan check applications, of course).

We recognize that, when getting the doors of your business open, time is of the essence. Using FAST START can significantly reduce the turnaround on your plan check, enabling you to get going faster. There's no additional fee for using the FAST START program.

How does it work? To be FAST START eligible, your project must be submitted by a licensed architect, who utilizes the **FAST START Checklist** to ensure that the project meets the FAST START criteria and the submittal is complete. When City staff receives a qualifying FAST START application, we know that it is professionally prepared and comprehensive — which means that plan check review will go quicker and more smoothly.

The FAST START Plan Check eligibility checklist is available at the front counter of City Hall or online at SonomaCity.org (go to City Departments > Building > Forms).

➔ **If you're a licensed architect,** we'd like to meet with you to provide an overview of the FAST START process and answer any questions you may have. FAST START is now available for residential improvement projects as well. Call us at 938-3681.

➔ **If you're opening a business,** check out the resources available at SonomaChamber.com to help get your business off to a successful start, including a 6-minute video guide to "Starting a Business in Sonoma".

"We've seen how the FAST START program helps new businesses get open faster. Business clients that have used this option see the benefit and recommend it to other businesses. It streamlines the plan review process, which also tends to make the inspection process go more smoothly as well. In our experience, the timeline that normally can take 4-6 weeks gets reduced to 1-2 weeks"

- Brad Johnson, AIA
Principal, STRATAap



"I would definitely recommend FAST START to other business owners. In any major renovation project there can be bumps in the road, but I believe FAST START was an important factor in keeping my project timeline on track and getting open on schedule."

- Dan Parks
Owner, Inn at Sonoma

