



Shade Cloth Structure Guide

Purpose

To provide guidance in clarifying the specific requirements for shade cloth structures which may be exempt from building permits.

Authority

The Building Official shall have the authority to render interpretations of the code and adopt and enforce rules and supplemental regulations to clarify the application of provisions per Section 104.1 of the California Building Code.

Applicable Code Section(s)

A building permit shall not be required per San Luis Obispo County Ordinance, Title 19: **19.02.020(f):1.j** Shade cloth structures constructed for nursery or agricultural purposes, not including plumbing, electrical or mechanical systems.

19.02.020(f):1.j Shade cloth structures defined: A structure open on all sides, used for nursery or agricultural crop protection, recognized as a covered structure with a water permeable cloth material.

The intent of these sections is to provide clarification of the type of shade cloth structure to be built without a building permit for nursery or agricultural related uses. A building permit is not required if **all** the following conditions are met:

- nursery or agricultural use—not for residential use;
- temporary in nature and readily removable;
- shall not have trusses or prefabricated components;
- light frame materials; such as, light frame steel tubing or aluminum not exceeding 2” in diameter;
- shall not have a permanent anchoring system or foundation
- residential accessory uses are limited to 120 square feet;
- open on all sides and throughout the covered area;
- detached from other structures;
- area not to exceed 12,000 sq. ft;
- maximum overall vertical height 12 feet tall;
- covered with permeable cloth type material; and
- shall not include any plumbing, electrical, or mechanical systems or portion thereof, attached or not.

Structures constructed of rigid walls and rigid sloped roofs using transparent panels, which are not covered in the above interpretation, require a permit. These structures shall only be exempt from a permit if they are a residential accessory use and do not exceed 120 sq. ft.

Building permit exemptions shall not authorize any work to be done in violation of the San Luis Obispo County Ordinance (Title 19) or any other law or ordinance of this jurisdiction.