

HVAC Licensure in Indiana

County & Municipal Laws — Reference Guide

Last compiled: May 28, 2026. Indiana has no statewide HVAC license; verify directly with each jurisdiction before relying on this for compliance.

Important context first

Indiana has **no statewide HVAC contractor license**. Unlike plumbers and electricians, HVAC/mechanical contractors are regulated entirely at the local level. Each city, town, or county sets its own rules, and requirements range from a full licensing-board-and-exam regime (Indianapolis, Evansville, Fort Wayne) down to simple contractor registration or no requirement at all.

A few caveats about the list below:

- There is **no authoritative master list** published by the State of Indiana. The Indiana Professional Licensing Agency (IPLA) does not maintain one because it has no jurisdiction over HVAC.
- Indiana has 92 counties and hundreds of incorporated cities and towns. This guide covers jurisdictions with documented HVAC-specific licensing ordinances or registration requirements. Many smaller towns simply require a permit and an EPA-608-certified technician, with no separate local license.
- Local ordinances change. Verify anything below directly with the issuing building department before relying on it.
- EPA Section 608 Technician Certification is **federally required** of anyone handling refrigerants, regardless of jurisdiction. That is a Clean Air Act requirement, not a local one.

Jurisdictions with a formal HVAC contractor licensing program

These jurisdictions operate their own licensing board, examination, and ordinance for HVAC.

Indianapolis / Marion County

- **Authority:** Board of Heating and Cooling Examiners of Indianapolis; administered by the Department of Business and Neighborhood Services (BNS).
- **Governing law:** Revised Code of the Consolidated City and County of Indianapolis/Marion County, Chapter 875 (Contractors).
- **License classifications:** Air Conditioning “A” (unrestricted), “B” (25 tons cooling / 500,000 BTU heating; boilers ≤15 psig steam or 30 psig water), “D” (5 tons / 300,000 BTU), Refrigeration, High Pressure Steam.
- **Notes:** Covers the consolidated city and Marion County, but excludes Lawrence, Beech Grove, Southport, and Speedway as separate cities (Speedway requires the Marion County license anyway). Indianapolis issues only at the contractor level; apprentices may work under a licensed contractor.

Fort Wayne / Allen County

- **Authority:** Allen County Building Department.

- **License levels:** Journeyman and contractor/master, with Air Conditioning A and B classifications similar to Indianapolis.
- **Notes:** Uses the Prometric exam. Requires roughly five years of qualifying experience, a surety bond, and general liability insurance.

Evansville / Vanderburgh County

- **Authority:** Joint City-County Department of Building Commissioners; Board of Examiners of HVAC, Steam Fitters, and Refrigeration Installers.
- **Governing law:** Evansville Municipal Code Chapter 5.70 (Contractors); Vanderburgh County Code Chapter 15.36 (Licensing and Certification of Construction Businesses and Occupations).
- **License levels:** Master HVAC Installer, Journeyman HVAC Installer, Master/Journeyman Steam Fitter, Master/Journeyman Refrigeration Installer; HVAC Contractor classifications A, B, and C.
- **Notes:** Single joint city-county license valid throughout Vanderburgh County. Requires a written exam (through Ivy Tech), three notarized reference letters documenting four years of experience, surety bond, liability insurance, workers' comp, and continuing education for renewal.

South Bend / St. Joseph County

- **Authority:** St. Joseph County Building Department (serves the City of South Bend and unincorporated St. Joseph County).
- **Governing law:** Chapter 6 of the South Bend Municipal Code (amended by Bill 38-25, passed June 23, 2025).
- **License levels:** HVAC contractors submit an application for review prior to licensing. Refrigeration is a separate registered category.
- **Requirements:** \$5,000 surety bond; building department application review; standard insurance requirements.

Muncie

- **Authority:** City of Muncie Building Commissioner.
- **License classifications:** HVAC Contractor A, B, and C.
- **Governing law:** Muncie HVAC Contractor License ordinance, administered through the Building Commissioner. Board approval (Mechanical Board of Contractors) required before issuance; one-year term.

Terre Haute

- **Authority:** City of Terre Haute (License and Permit Office).
- **License approach:** Heating and cooling contractor license, but the city does not administer its own exam. The contractor must employ at least one full-time employee certified by NATE, HVAC Excellence, RSES, Experior Assessment, or holding the Indianapolis HVAC Air Conditioning Class A (or equivalent).
- **Fees:** \$350 initial; \$175 annual renewal.

Gary

- **Authority:** City of Gary Building Department.
- **License classifications:** Mechanical – Limited; Mechanical – Unlimited (tested licenses, alongside Electrical, Roofing, Demolition, etc.).

East Chicago

- **Authority:** City of East Chicago.
- **Governing law:** East Chicago Municipal Code Title 5 (Business Taxes, Licenses and Regulations).
- **Notes:** One of the few Indiana cities that requires a written exam for all specialty contractors (electrical, plumbing, HVAC, etc.) in addition to general registration.

Hammond

- **Authority:** City of Hammond.
- **Notes:** Requires contractors (including HVAC) to be licensed and registered with the city.

Lake County

- **Authority:** Lake County (separate HVAC exam process).
- **Notes:** Administers its own HVAC examination distinct from any city within the county.

Carmel

- **Authority:** City of Carmel Building and Code Services.
- **Notes:** Requires both contractor registration and a separate HVAC license.

Jurisdictions that register HVAC contractors

These require HVAC contractors to register with the local building department — typically with proof of insurance and bond — but do not run their own licensing exam. Many accept an Indianapolis (Marion County) license or equivalent.

- Anderson
- Auburn
- Bartholomew County
- Beech Grove
- Bloomington
- Clark County
- DeKalb County
- Elkhart
- Fishers (registration required for anyone pulling a permit other than a homeowner doing their own work)
- Goshen (no general contractor license, but specialty registrations may apply)
- Henry County
- Huntington
- Jeffersonville
- Johnson County
- Lafayette (bond/insurance required for permit work)
- Lawrence
- Michigan City
- Mishawaka

- New Albany
 - Plymouth (Building Department regulates HVAC among other trade licenses)
 - Randolph County (all contractors register with the Building Commission)
 - Richmond / Wayne County (registration required for HVAC; no general contractor license)
 - Seymour
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Jurisdictions with no HVAC license requirement

As of the latest available reporting, these jurisdictions do not require an HVAC contractor license, though permits and EPA 608 still apply. An Indianapolis (Marion County) license is often accepted if presented.

- Greenwood
- Kokomo
- Monroe County
- Noblesville (review city permit requirements case-by-case)

Speedway (special case)

Speedway is one of the four excluded cities inside Marion County (with Lawrence, Beech Grove, and Southport) that fall outside Indianapolis BNS jurisdiction, but Speedway requires HVAC contractors to hold the **Marion County HVAC license** anyway.

Common elements across most local ordinances

Even with the patchwork, most jurisdictions that license HVAC share these elements:

- Minimum age 18 and a high school diploma or GED.
 - Four to five years of documented HVAC work experience (sometimes partly satisfied by approved education).
 - Passing a written exam — Prometric is most common; some use Ivy Tech or PSI/Prov.
 - A passing score of 70% on both a trade exam and a business-and-law exam.
 - General liability insurance, commonly \$500,000 (sometimes up to \$1M/\$2M).
 - A surety bond ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000.
 - Workers' compensation insurance if the business has employees.
 - Annual or biennial renewal.
 - Continuing education in some jurisdictions (e.g., Evansville/Vanderburgh).
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How to verify for a specific jurisdiction

Because no comprehensive list exists, the practical workflow for any specific job site is:

1. Identify the city or town where the work will be performed.
2. Identify the county (in case it is unincorporated territory).

3. Contact that jurisdiction's building department or permit office. Ask specifically whether they (a) issue an HVAC license, (b) require contractor registration, or (c) accept a reciprocal license from another Indiana jurisdiction.
 4. Verify the contractor on the Indiana eVerification portal (mylicense.in.gov/everification) for state-level credentials, and on the local building department's contractor search if available.
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Sources

- ServiceTitan — Indiana HVAC License Guide (2026)
- Contractor License Requirements — Indiana HVAC (2026)
- Housecall Pro — Indiana HVAC Licensing
- Contractor Requirements — Indiana HVAC Regulations (2026)
- D J Lynch & Associates — Indianapolis HVACR License Requirements
- Indiana Permits — Indiana Contractor License Requirements by County
- City of Evansville Building Commission / Vanderburgh County Code Chapter 15.36
- Evansville Municipal Code Chapter 5.70
- City of South Bend / St. Joseph County Building Department
- City of Muncie HVAC Contractor License application materials
- City of Terre Haute License and Permit Office
- US Licenses — How to Get an HVAC License in Indiana
- HVAC License City/County links (hvaclicense.com)