

## Before Buying Any Home (Things to Consider)

- Have the Property Inspected  
As a potential buyer you may hire a private home inspection service ([see yellow pages](#)) to do a home inspection before purchasing a home.

Orono doesn't require a truth-in-housing inspection and we will not go out for these inspections.

- Get Area Crime Statistics  
Check with the local Police Department.

To check out crime in Orono contact the Orono Police Department – (952) 249-4700 or online at [www.oronopolice.org](http://www.oronopolice.org)

- Check all City records for any work previously done on that home.  
This information is public information and may be helpful when looking at buying a home. (Varies per City, but copies may have a cost tied to them.)

Orono does charge for copies, but the files are public information. Stop into Orono City Hall located at 2750 Kelley Parkway, Orono.

- Request a Special Assessment Search  
Depending on City – a cost may be tied to this service. It's well worth the money to find out if a Special Assessment is owed on the property to avoid unknown costs at the time of closing on a property.

In Orono, anyone can come and look at the tax books for free and calculate the special assessment themselves. The current homeowner can request a special assessment search for free, but this must be submitted in writing! Any other person requesting a special assessment search must do so in writing and the fee is \$15.00 / per search.

- Make sure if you are having any work done by a contractor, that your contractor has taken out any permits they may need with the City.

Make sure you have chosen a licensed contractor; to verify this either asks them for proof, or check out the State's website at [www.gov.state.mn.us/Commerce/license\\_lookup.do?action=lookupForm](http://www.gov.state.mn.us/Commerce/license_lookup.do?action=lookupForm)

- Check with City to find out what kind of permits are needed to do work in that City.

Orono requires permits for almost everything!

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- Check with the City's Building & Planning Departments. Things to check on: hardcover & setbacks on the property.

Orono has many regulations, especially relating to lakeshore and wetland properties.

- Lakeshore or Wetlands - Check with the Watershed & Zoning Department for restrictions of that City.

In Orono, the Watershed District is the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (952) 471-0682 or online at [www.minnehahacreek.org](http://www.minnehahacreek.org)  
To contact Orono's Zoning Department, call (952) 249-4600.

- Check Lot Split and Lot Combination Regulations of that City

In Orono, check with our Zoning Department at (952) 249-4600. Just a reminder, it is harder to recombine a lot that has been split, and sometimes this is not reversible.

- If there is a well on the property you are looking to buy, check with the current homeowners to make sure they have had their well tested. This is now a State Statue. For further information, check out our "[well disclosure web page](#)".

- Check Home Occupation Restrictions of that City

Orono requires some Home Occupations to be licensed. Check with our Zoning Department at (952) 249-4600 to see if you will have to be licensed.

- Check Animal Ordinances of that City

Orono requires dogs to be licensed. If you have 3 or more dogs over six months in age, you must also obtain a "Kennel License". Cats are not licensed in Orono, but we do regulate the number of cats to 4 if they are over six months in age.

## **MOVING OUT:**

- Contact the City Homestead Department from the City you are moving from, so they can do a change of address.

Contact the Orono homestead clerk at (952) 249-4604.

- Contact the City Utility Department from the City you are moving from to discontinue your utilities.

Contact the Orono Utility Billing Department at (952) 249-4613.  
For a change form or check out the [Utility Change Form Page](#).

- Contact all of your utility companies and cancel your utility bills and or do a change of address.

For Orono – Check out our [Utility Companies](#) web page.

- Get change of address slips from your local post office, or do a mail forward.

In Orono, contact your local post office or check out our [Post Office](#) web page.

## **MOVING IN: (Specific to Orono)**

- File for [Homestead Credit](#)  
As soon as possible after you move in, bring a copy of your Deed and Certificate of Real Estate Value (CRV) to the front counter at City Hall to file for Homestead. (This must be done in person)
- [Utility Billing](#) for Orono  
Call Orono City Hall at (952) 249-4600; ask for Utility Billing to have your utility information updated. Or fill out our [online form](#).
- Call Garbage & Utility Companies – Serving Orono  
Check [our website](#) for further information on garbage, phone, electric, gas and cable companies serving Orono.
- Recycling in Orono  
Check [our website](#) for information and schedule.
- Driver & Vehicle Licensing  
Must be obtained at local service centers, see [our website](#) for locations, times and information.
- Dog Licenses  
Orono requires that all residents license their dogs. Three or more dogs require a [Kennel license](#). Check out the [License & Permit page](#) on our website.
- Check with City Before Doing Any Work On Your Property  
Orono requires permits for almost everything, please check with our Building & Zoning Department before doing any work in Orono. Main Office (952) 249-4600.