

Agriculture Buildings

Exempt from Structural Review and Inspection

What is an Agriculture Building?

An agriculture building is a structure used for agriculture purposes such as housing farm implements, hay, grain, poultry, livestock, aquaculture, or other horticultural products.

When is an Agriculture Building Exempt from Structural Review and Inspection?

Agricultural buildings which meet the following structure requirements are exempt from structural review and building code inspections.

- Single story structure;
- Does not exceed 775 square feet in size;
- Overhangs do not extend farther than twenty-four (24) inches past exterior walls or supports;
- Unheated and without toilet facilities;
- Set back at least thirty feet (30) from all property lines, but in no case less than the setbacks prescribed in the Thurston County Zoning Code.
- Set back thirty-three (33) feet from other buildings.
- For structures housing animals, the setback shall be fifty (50) feet from the front property boundary and thirty-five (35) feet from the side and rear property boundaries.
- Not used for human habitation.
- Is not be a place used by the public.
- Is not be a place of employment where agricultural products are processed, treated, or packaged, or where processing equipment is stored;

Is a Building Permit Required?

Yes. A building permit is required. The exemption does not exclude compliance with applicable ordinances including, but not limited to land use regulations, zoning, Critical Area Ordinance, Shoreline Master Program, Stormwater Drainage, and Environmental Health regulations.

What Inspections are Required?

A site inspection is required to confirm required setbacks are met. The footprint of the structure must be staked and flagged prior to the site inspection being requested.

Do I need to Submit Construction Drawings?

No. Construction drawings are not required for an agriculture structure meeting all structure requirements.

How do I Apply?

Submit to the Building Development Center (BDC) a complete application package containing the following:

- Master Application
- Residential Building Permit Application
- Site plan meeting site plan submittal standards
- Applicable application fees.

Required information is available online at the website address noted at the bottom of this page.

Review Process and Timing

After a complete application package is submitted, the proposal is routed to applicable departments for review and approval. After all Departments have recommended approval and all required conditions have been met, a building permit will be issued. Timelines vary depending on the type of application.

Hours of Operation

The BDC is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Arrive no later than 3:30 p.m. if submitting an application.

I Still Have Questions...

For additional information, please call and speak with friendly professional staff at the BDC. Contact information and website address are referenced below.

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Thurston County Building Development Center

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