



Adult Family Homes

What are Adult Family Homes?

These are residential homes licensed to care for up to six non-related residents. They provide room, board, laundry, necessary supervision, and necessary help with activities of daily living, personal care, and social services. Adult family homes are regulated by the WA State Department of Health and Social Services.

Can any home be used as an adult family home?

Not every home can be used for an adult family home. Water, sewage disposal, and required modifications (if any) may affect whether the home can meet the regulations.

To operate an adult family home in Thurston County, you must provide water from an approved public water system.

A maximum of 6 clients are allowed if you are connected to a sewer system.

If the residence is served by an on-site sewage (septic) system you will need to have the sewage system evaluated by a licensed sewage system designer and a report submitted for review. A separate application (HG) and fee is required for this review. The sewage system will need to be approved for the proposed use.

Do I need a permit for an Adult Family Home?

The International Residential Code requires that homes be permitted and that they comply with International Residential Code section R325. Compliance is verified by completing the Adult Family Home (AFH) Local Building Inspection Checklist that is provided at:
<http://www.aasa.dshs.wa.gov/professional/afh.htm>
Submit this checklist along with a completed Master application and Inspection for Adult Family Home (SA007).

How do I Apply?

Submit a completed application package to the Permit Assistance Center with the applicable fee. Complete package requirements are outlined on each Supplemental application.

1. It is recommended that the application be submitted in person to ensure a complete application package and to obtain the tracking number for the project. Applications received by mail that are incomplete will not be processed therefore delaying review of the project.
2. Mail the application package to the address referenced at the bottom of this page.

What are the fees for the permit?

The fees as shown on the Resource Stewardship fee schedule.

What Form of Payment is Accepted?

Application fees may be paid by check, credit card (Visa or Mastercard), or cash.

Review Process and Timing

If the application is complete, a project tracking number is assigned and routed to the applicable reviewing department(s). Timelines vary depending on the type of application. Refer to the information bulletin attached to each specific Supplemental application for additional information.

Hours of Operation

The Permit Assistance Center is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 12 noon. Arrive no later than 11:30 a.m. if submitting an application. If technical assistance is needed, representatives from Planning and Environmental Health are available Tuesday through Thursday.

I Still Have Questions...

For additional information, speak with a staff member at the Permit Assistance Center. Contact information is listed below. You may also review all Thurston County Codes online on the County website referenced at the bottom of this page.

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Thurston County Permit Assistance Center

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www.co.thurston.wa.us/permitting