

# Submittal Requirements



City of Portland Oregon  
Development Services Center  
1900 SW Fourth Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97201  
503-823-3018  
[www.portlandoregon.gov/bds](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bds)

Bureau of Development Services  
Bureau of Environmental Services  
Portland Fire & Rescue  
Bureau of Parks & Recreation  
Portland Water Bureau  
Portland Bureau of Transportation

## Commercial - New Construction, Additions, Alterations with Exterior Work, or Structural Changes

This handout describes information that is usually required when applying for a permit for the construction of:

- A **new structure** covered under the Commercial Code. This would apply to new commercial structures and multi-family residential projects with 3 or more units. Or,
- A commercial alteration project which includes additional exterior work, structural changes, or increase in building footprint.
- If your project includes work that would change the occupancy or use of an existing building, please see us first before you prepare your submittal materials and plans. We will help you with information tailored to your project.

### Submittal Materials

- Completed Building Permit Application
- Inclusionary Housing Selection Form
- Life Safety Completeness Checklist, including Building Code Summary (required) and Fire & Life Safety Summary (as required)
- Completed Systems Development Charge (SDC) Information Form for use with Commercial Projects
- Erosion control measures (may be part of the Site Plan or the Grading Plan)
- Tree Plan See this link for a detailed description of tree plan requirements: [www.portlandoregon.gov/citycode/article/674402](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/citycode/article/674402) or call 503-823-TREE
- Documentation of required Neighborhood Contact, where applicable. See this link for more information: [www.portlandoregon.gov/bds/article/71923](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bds/article/71923).
- If the development has been approved through a Design or Historic Resource Review, a completed Certificate of Compliance with Land Use Conditions of approval: [www.portlandoregon.gov/bds/article/623658](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bds/article/623658).
- Mitigation Form and/or a Stormwater Plan if your project will add more than 500 square feet of new and/or redeveloped impervious area, or if your project involves an existing property that is proposing new stormwater discharges off-site.
- Four (4) copies each of Site, Architectural, Civil, Structural, Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing and Stormwater plans for the area of proposed work and areas affected by such work. Each drawing set or volume must weigh less than 25 pounds.
- Structural Calculations—Two (2) set prepared and stamped by the architect or engineer of record for the work covered. Calculations shall include a design summary and be sufficiently complete to demonstrate that the structural system is capable of supporting all imposed vertical and lateral loads and to demonstrate how loads are carried to the foundation.

### Things to know before you start

**Zoning Nonconforming Upgrades (NCUs)** are triggered by permits for additions and alterations to existing development, with a project valuation as specified in Section 33.258.070, currently \$163,650.. The requirements are intended to bring sites into conformance over time with zoning standards that may have changed since the original approval of the development. A full information guide explaining the options for addressing NCUs can be found here: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bds/article/693819>.

**Compliance with approved Land Use Review decisions**, if applicable, will be evaluated as part of your permit review. Development that is not in conformance with approved Land Use Review exhibits may need additional land use review(s), and can substantially lengthen your permit approval process.

If your commercial project is an alteration/tenant improvement with no increase in floor area, no structural changes, and only minor changes to the exterior, please see the Submittal Guidelines for **Commercial Major Interior Alterations** or **Commercial Minor Interior Alterations**.

- Major Alterations have a total project valuation equal to or greater than \$163,650
- Minor Alterations have a total project valuation less than \$163,650

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Please be aware that since every project is unique, there may be some situations where you will be asked to provide additional information, or your project may not require all the items on this list. We encourage you to visit the Development Services Center to discuss your individual project needs.

**Systems Development Charges (SDCs)** are collected by the Bureaus of Environmental Services, Parks and Recreation, Water, and the Portland Bureau of Transportation to help offset the impact your project will have on the City's infrastructure of storm and sanitary sewer systems, parks and recreation facilities, water and street systems. ([www.portlandoregon.gov/bds/34186](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bds/34186)) SDCs may be charged when:

- There is a change of use or occupancy
- The project increases the number of plumbing fixture units
- Additional dwelling units are added
- The project includes additional or redeveloped impervious surfaces of over 500 square feet or more, or if new stormwater and/or sanitary sewer connections are proposed

The Commercial SDC Form has contact numbers for each bureau charging SDCs.

### What permits will you need?

The Application Materials outlined on this sheet will help us to issue your building permit. You may also need separate plumbing, mechanical, and/or electrical permits for work done by contractors in each specialty, depending on your individual project.

### Need Help?

We encourage you to visit the Development Services Center (DSC) to discuss your individual project needs. Call (503) 823-7310, select option #1 for hours.

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## Plan Document Checklist

- Please clearly distinguish between existing conditions and proposed work.
- The plans may need to be stamped by an architect or engineer, registered in the State of Oregon.
- The plans must be legible, reproducible, black and white, with appropriate line weights and line types. Use a paper size, and a recognizable scale that will provide room to clearly show all details and allow for the addition of City review notes and stamps.
- Minimum printed text size for dimensions and notes is 3/32", or the equivalent of 12 point font; i.e. the underlined font is Times New Roman 12.

### Site Plans

- Property lines with dimensions, adjacent street names, easement locations and types, vicinity map, north arrow, drawing scale, and lot area in square feet. For projects with a value of \$163,650 or more, provide this information for any lots under the same ownership that comprise the, "site," per the Zoning Code definition.
- Property address, R number and legal description
  - Tree Plan, showing all trees 12-inches in diameter on private property and all trees 3-inches in diameter or greater in the street or straddling the street lot line. When required, demonstrate that Title 11 Tree Preservation and Density standards are met (see link Trees and Development page in Submittal Materials above)
  - Other existing and proposed landscaping shrubs, and groundcover), described with species name, common name, pot size and spacing (if proposed).
- All site related improvements including grading and erosion control
- Existing and proposed grade elevations at property corners and corners of structure(s). Where a structure has a door, person gate or garage entry within 5' of a public street right-of-way, also include:
  - Proposed finish floor elevations of doors, person gates, and garage entries, and
  - Elevations at top of existing curb and back of existing sidewalk and property line (perpendicular along the right-of-way)
- All existing and proposed structures on site with distances from property lines and other structures. Include area (in square feet) of any existing buildings. Show basements that extend under public right-of-way.
- Utilities including gas lines, power poles, street lights, and all new and existing water meters and water piping (fire, domestic and irrigation) with points of connection to the City water system and related sizes
- All existing and proposed backflow assembly locations, including size and type of water service
- All existing and proposed public and private sanitary and storm sewers and easements with points of connections and discharge
- Locations of all existing and proposed fire hydrants (if none on-site, note the distance to nearest)
- Parking layout plan with dimensions, including, accessible parking spaces/aisles, and accessible route to building entry

- Location and number of exterior bicycle parking spaces
- Location and screening of exterior trash and recycling areas, as well as ground-located mechanical equipment
- Existing and proposed paved pedestrian connections on the site;
- Driveways, width of adjacent right-of-way, public sidewalk, planting strip and/or tree wells, curb or edge of pavement, locations of all public and private easements, and zoning overlays, dimension driveway width and distance to property line
- Location, dimensions, and area (in square feet) of all existing and proposed paving
- Landscaping and Trees (proposed and existing) to include both on-site information, street trees and erosion control plan

### Architectural Plans

- General Building Code Information including scope of work proposed, building location, tenant space location, suite number and/or business name, Building Code edition, Building Construction Type, Uses of building, Occupancy Classification(s), Separated or Nonseparated Uses, number of stories, overall building area (square feet), interior bicycle parking, floor area of alteration or addition, fire sprinkler type and extent of coverage, fire alarms, number of plumbing fixtures required and provided, and any other applicable building code information.
- Code Summary Floor Plans (may be on main plan or a separate floor plan diagram showing full extent of building area) clearly showing fire wall types and fire-rating (i.e., area separation, occupancy separations, corridors, exits enclosures, shafts, etc.), uses of rooms/areas and occupancy classifications, occupant loads, smoke detectors, egress paths to the exterior of the building with exit signs and egress lighting.
- Floor Plans, fully dimensioned and labeled, including existing and proposed walls, walls to be removed, doors with swing direction, windows, stairs, plumbing fixtures, accessibility clearances, corridors, uses of rooms/areas, fire wall types and fire-rating, exit signs.
- Building exterior elevations showing each side of the building, with exterior finish materials and height of the building above grade, and below grade structure, i.e. basement/foundation, show location of property lines and dedication.
- Roof Plan including roof materials, slopes, drains, vents, access hatch and roof-mounted equipment.
- Door and window sizes, fire-rating, and hardware for all doors.
- Building Sections and details as necessary to clearly indicate all required construction information.

### Structural Plans

- General notes which include design loads, geotechnical report references (if applicable), materials grades and specifications, list of special inspection items, list of deferred submittal items.

- Foundation Plans and details, including piles, shoring, tiebacks, retaining walls, etc. Show location of property lines and dedication.
- Floor and roof framing plans showing all member sizes and connection details for gravity and lateral load paths.

### Mechanical Plans

- HVAC Floor Plans indicating locations of shafts, corridors, occupancy separations and all other fire rated construction as shown on the most current Architectural Floor Plans, sizes and locations of duct work, fire and smoke dampers at penetrations through fire rated construction, and design criteria for outside air.
- HVAC Roof Plan is required when there are new or replacement units. Identify the types, sizes, locations and weights of mechanical equipment, and dimensions from equipment to the edge of roof.

### Plumbing Plans

- For exterior site utility piping provide the location, size, and type of all material for water service, rain drains, sanitary sewer, storm water sewer lines, and new/existing connections.
- Projects with the installation and/or alteration of any of the following must include complete plumbing piping plans showing waste, vent, and water piping, with existing and proposed fixture unit counts calculated in accordance with the Oregon State Plumbing Specialty Code, Table 6-4 and Table 7-3. Riser diagrams may be required for projects three or more stories in height.
  - Chemical drainage waste and vent systems containing chemical agents potentially detrimental to the integrity of a plumbing system
  - Wastewater pretreatment systems for building sewers or pollution controls (source controls)
  - Vacuum drainage waste and vent systems
  - Reclaimed wastewater or harvested rainwater systems
  - Commercial booster pump system needed to maintain a minimum residual water pressure in a structure supplied by a municipal source
  - Plumbing system requiring a building water service line with an interior diameter or nominal pipe size of two inches or greater except those two inch systems which have been designed and stamped by a licensed engineer
  - Medical gas and vacuum system for health care facilities
  - Installation of any multi-purpose fire sprinkler system under standards adopted by the department
- A separate plumbing permit must be obtained by the plumbing contractor.
- Grease processing /interception equipment systems for food service establishments and food processing facilities
- Food Service Establishments are required to have outside agency approval. Contact Multnomah County Health Department 503-988-3400 and Oregon Agriculture Department, Food Safety 503-986-4720.

## Electrical Plans

- Indicate location for lights, fans, smoke detectors, exit signs, and egress lighting, and show compliance with Building Code electrical requirements. A separate electrical permit must be obtained by the electrical contractor.

## Civil Plans

For simple projects, this information can be incorporated into the site plan where details are clearly shown

- Erosion Prevention and Control Plan
- Utility Plan
- Grading Plan, please include the reference elevation datum
- Excavation/Shoring Plan (shoring design by engineer)
- Stormwater Drainage Plan

## Stormwater Plan

- Lot or project area with setbacks (if not on site plan)
- Grading information (contours and elevations) showing runoff pattern
- Delineate all new and/or redeveloped impervious areas
- Existing paved areas and roofs, including size in square feet
- Stormwater facility designs (if not on Plumbing Plans) showing inlet/outlet elevations, storm sizing calculations, locations of all stormwater discharge connections to public sewer, point of on-site infiltration or natural drainage ways, and complete plumbing information including piping material, piping sizing and fittings.
- Sanitary service connections

## Additional Information

- Specifications—Two (2) sets of construction specifications if used for the project
- Soils Report—Two (2) sets of soils reports, where required, prepared by a registered design professional that details all needed site related soils information.
- Energy code compliance documentation— Two (2) copies including State-approved Forms and Worksheets for the Summary, Building Envelope, Lighting, and HVAC.
- For alterations and additions to existing buildings, two (2) copies of an Accessibility Upgrade Schedule consisting of a list of proposed accessibility improvements, and their corresponding value. (To show accessibility improvement costs of 25% of the project value)
- One (1) copy of a Fire and Life Safety Summary for large and/or complicated buildings such as hospitals, malls, large assembly buildings, high-rise buildings and buildings with smoke control systems (see Fire and Life Safety Summary checklist for material required)

*Is your site in a flood hazard area? Please direct floodplain development questions to Site Development at (503) 823-6892.*

## Helpful Information

City of Portland, Oregon  
Development Services Center (DSC), First Floor,  
1900 SW 4th Avenue, Portland, OR 97201

**For Hours Call** 503-823-7310  
or visit [www.PortlandOregon.gov/bds](http://www.PortlandOregon.gov/bds)

**Information on choosing a contractor**  
(<http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bds/article/525047>)

## Important telephone numbers

BDS main number .....503-823-7300  
DSC automated information line .....503-823-7310  
Building code information .....503-823-1456  
Zoning information .....503-823-7526  
Permit information for electrical, mechanical,  
plumbing, sewer and sign.....503-823-7363  
Permitting process.....503-823-7357  
Permit resources and records.....503-823-7660  
FAX requests for records.....503-823-7765

## System development charges information

Bureau of Environmental Services.....503-823-7761  
Bureau of Parks & Recreation.....503-823-5105  
Portland Water Bureau.....503-823-7364  
Portland Bureau of Transportation.....503-823-7002  
BDS 24 hour inspection request line  
requires IVR number and three digit  
type of inspection code .....503-823-7000  
Small Business Liaison .....503-823-7542  
Portland License Bureau.....503-823-5157  
Tree Hotline .....503-823-8733  
City of Portland TTY .....503-823-6868

Visit our website  
[www.portlandoregon.gov/bds](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bds)

*All information is subject to change.*