

Seattle Permits

— part of a multi-departmental City of Seattle series on getting a permit

Sources for Property Information

Updated January 4, 2024

You may require certain basic information about your property to apply for a land use or building permit. This basic property information, such as the legal description, zoning, property lines, legally established use, recorded easements, and code violations, is usually available from a city, county, or state agency.

The sources identified below may assist you in locating this information.

City of Seattle

SEATTLE DEPARTMENT OF CONSTRUCTION AND INSPECTIONS (SDCI)

Microfilm Library

Seattle Municipal Tower
700 Fifth Ave.

sci_microfilm@seattle.gov

Permits, plans and land use files prior to 2006 in microfilm form.

Please note the City did not retain plans of single family and duplex structures prior to 1974.

Electronic Document Library

<http://web.seattle.gov/dpd/edms>

Permits and land use files post 2006 in electronic form.

Please note that construction plans and structural calculations are only available by emailing your request for plans to sci_microfilm@seattle.gov.

Public Record Request Center

www.seattle.gov/public-records

Requests for any non-permit related records maintained by us, such as code compliance files, should be made through the City's Public Record Request Center.

Permit & Complaint Status

<https://cosaccela.seattle.gov/Portal/welcome.aspx>

Basic information regarding building permits, land use permits, and code compliance complaints from 1994 to present is available through our Permit and Complaint Status webpage.

Side Sewer Cards and Maps

<http://web.seattle.gov/dpd/sideseewercardsv2/>

The SDCI Side Sewer Cards and Maps webpage shows private connections to the public sewer system prior to 2007. Please contact the Microfilm Library for as-built side sewer plans after 2007.

SEATTLE PUBLIC UTILITIES (SPU)

Information Center

Seattle Municipal Tower
700 Fifth Ave.
(206) 684-3000

- General information
- Referrals to map vault for:
 - topographical maps
 - paving & sidewalk plans
 - quarter section maps
 - historical aerial photos

www.seattle.gov/sdci



SEATTLE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (SDOT)

Street Use Permit Center

Seattle Municipal Tower
700 Fifth Ave.
(206) 684-5253

- Curb cut locations
- Curb cut specifications
- Street vacation information

SEATTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY - Central Branch

Magazines, Newspapers & Government Publications

1000 Fourth Ave.
(206) 386-4636

- Environmental Impact Statements
- Traffic Studies/Plans
- Seattle City Codes

SEATTLE CITY CLERK

City Hall, 3rd floor
600 Fourth Ave.
(206) 684-8344

- City Council actions
- Code amendments

King County

KING COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS

King County Customer Service Center
201 S. Jackson St., Room 708
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 296-7300

HOURS: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

- Legal descriptions
- Construction date
- Use for tax purposes
- Tax rate

KING COUNTY RECORDER'S OFFICE

King County Customer Service Center
201 S. Jackson St., Suite 204
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 477-6620

HOURS: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For documents from mid-1991, including:

- Recorded documents
- Legal descriptions
- Liens
- Easements
- Short plats
- Lot boundary adjustments

KING COUNTY ARCHIVES

King County Archives
1215 East Fir St.
Seattle, WA 98122-5424
(206) 263-2480

archives@kingcounty.gov

For documents before mid-1991.

Washington State

WASHINGTON STATE ARCHIVES

Puget Sound Regional Branch

3000 Landerholm Circle SE, MS-N100
Bellevue, WA 98007-6484
(425) 564-3940

IMPORTANT: Please call for an appointment 24 hours in advance with parcel number and/or short legal description.

- Photographs of homes done in 1937-38 by WPA (Works Progress Administration)
- Indexes to deed & mortgages

Access to Information

Links to SDCI Tips, Director's Rules, and the Seattle Land Use Code are available on our website at www.seattle.gov/sdci.