

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Building Regulations Bylaw Amendment

Capital Regional District | February 2026

### General Overview

#### **Why is the Building Regulations Bylaw being revised?**

The Building Regulation Bylaw has been revised with the primary intent to make the process easier for applicants. It also introduces incentives for affordable housing projects.

#### **Who does this Building Regulation Bylaw apply to?**

The Building Regulation Bylaw applies to property owners, developers, and contractors undertaking building projects within the Electoral Areas of CRD (Juan de Fuca, Salt Spring Island and the Southern Gulf Islands).

#### **What are the main changes to the building bylaw?**

The objectives of these bylaw changes are:

1. Simplifying the permit application process to a single permit and eliminating multiple permits for the same project.
2. Extending timelines to begin construction from 6 months to 12 months.
3. Extend timeline from 24 months to 48 months to complete a construction project.
4. Discount the building permit fees by 50% for registered affordable multi-unit housing projects.
5. Allow Building Inspections staff to respond to information requests of permit record quicker than through a Freedom-of-Information request.

### Permit Process

#### **When does the new permitting process come into effect?**

March 1, 2026.

#### **How has the permit application process changed?**

Only a single building permit will be required, where previously, separate permits were required for different stages (e.g., plumbing, demolition). Under the bylaw revisions, a single building permit is required.

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### **What happens if I already have an active permit under the old bylaw?**

Existing permits remain valid. Applicants do not reapply, but any applications after March 1 2026 will follow the updated Bylaw Regulations.

## Fees and Discounts

### **Will Permit Fees change?**

The Bylaw revisions will **NOT** substantially change the permit fees. Calculating the permit fees is substantially easier with a flat rate of 1.4% of the construction cost. A comparison of Building Permit fees with other municipalities (within the CRD), indicates the CRD's permit fees are among the lowest.

### **Has requested information for building construction records changed?**

Yes, information can be requested directly from Building Inspection staff rather than as previously through a Freedom of Information request. This information can be supplied faster and easier to the public as in keeping with transparency and accessibility. Information requests on property permit records and construction are important for real estate transactions and quick service is necessary. Privacy of personal information in files is still paramount and will be redacted. There are nominal fees to cover staff time, printing and courier charges.

### **Where can I find updated forms and guides?**

Updated forms and guides will be available at [www.crd.ca/building](http://www.crd.ca/building).

### **Who can I contact for questions about the new bylaw?**

Please contact the CRD Building Services team at [permitquestion@crd.bc.ca](mailto:permitquestion@crd.bc.ca) for assistance.