



SHORELINE EXEMPTIONS



This brochure is intended to give you basic guidance on activities within the shoreline area that are exempt from the formal Shoreline Substantial Development Permit process.

Does my project qualify?

Exempt activities may include small, low-cost projects (those valued under \$8,504 in 2022), residential grading (under 250 cubic yards) that does not involve placement of fill in any wetland or waterward of the ordinary high-water mark, and repair, maintenance, or construction on existing or in-kind structures. A complete list of activities that qualify for an exemption may be viewed online under Kitsap County Code (KCC) Section [22.500.100\(C\)\(3\)](#). Exemptions must be construed narrowly, per [Washington Administrative Code](#).

If a Shoreline Exemption Permit is requested for repair and maintenance of a structure or development completed after the adoption of the Washington State Shoreline Management Act in 1972 but was not previously permitted, a Shoreline Substantial Development Permit may be required instead to bring the structure or development into compliance.

How can I obtain an exemption?

Shoreline Exemption Permit requests must be submitted to Kitsap County Department of Community Development (DCD). Projects will be reviewed for consistency with the policies and provisions of the state Shoreline Management Act and KCC Title 22 [Shoreline Master Program](#). Exemptions may be granted under specific conditions of approval to ensure consistency with the Act and Master Program.

Conditions of approval may include a mitigation plan designed by a consultant or professional to remedy and/or offset any adverse impacts the project may cause to shoreline areas.



A plan might include invasive plant species removal and new native vegetation plantings; such plans require monitoring over the course of several seasons to ensure successful implementation.

If the project successfully qualifies for a shoreline exemption, the County will email a letter of approval to the applicant and

other interested parties on condition of a 14-day appeal period.

Are there other permits that may be required?

A building permit may still be required for certain structures. If a shoreline exemption is approved under the condition of a mitigation plan, the project will require a monitoring covenant and accompanying permit. All **Shoreline Exemption Permit** requests must complete a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) checklist.

See the [Critical Area and Shoreline Protection and Monitoring](#) brochure for more information about mitigation plans and monitoring requirements.

Exempt activities that could impact state waters may also still require Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Contact the WDFW [Area Habitat Biologist](#) directly to determine whether your project will require an HPA.

See the [SEPA Review](#) brochure for more information about how the State Environmental Policy Act might affect your project.

Refer to the Kitsap County [DCD website](#) and KCC Sections [22.500.100\(C\)](#) and [19.300.315\(K\)\(1-3\)](#) for more information regarding shoreline exemptions. You may also [contact us or schedule an appointment](#) with an Environmental Planner at DCD. If you think your project may not qualify for an exemption after reading this brochure, see the [Shoreline Management](#) brochure to learn more about non-exempt project policies and procedures.

Kitsap County Department of Community Development

Your partner in building safe, resilient, and sustainable Kitsap County communities!

(360) 337-5777 ~ help@kitsap1.com ~ www.KitsapGov.com/DCD

Revision Date 12/22/2022 ~ DSE ~ Page 1 of 1