



Recreational Vehicles

#10

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SKAGITCOUNTYWA.GOV

Skagit County

Planning and
Development Services



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This information only applies to property within unincorporated Skagit County and does not apply to property within incorporated city limits.

Recreational vehicles are intended for just that—recreation— and can cause special problems or hazards when used contrary to their intended purpose. Skagit County has adopted rules to protect neighborhoods and property owners from unintended RV use.

What is a recreational vehicle?

“Recreational vehicle” means a travel trailer, 5-wheel trailer, park model trailer or a vehicle motor home coach that is:

1. It is built on a single chassis.
2. It is four hundred square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projection.
3. It is designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a regular-duty truck; and
4. It is not designed for use as a permanent dwelling but as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use.

An RV is not the same as a manufactured home; it is built to different standards and labeled accordingly. While Skagit County allows temporary placement of a manufactured home to accommodate certain special needs, an RV cannot be used for that purpose.

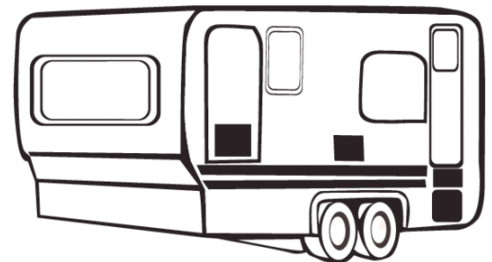
An RV is not the same as a Tiny Home. Please see Tiny Home, Essential Handout #31 for requirements on Tiny Homes.

Can I live in an RV?

Recreational vehicles are not designed for use as permanent dwelling units. Skagit County does not permit using an RV as a dwelling unit or accessory dwelling unit.

Temporary occupying an RV is allowed, but:

- No RV may be occupied for more than 180 days in any 12-month period; AND
- Only one occupied RV may be present on any lot.



Can I have an RV on my property?

Two recreational vehicles are allowed on a single lot at one time. As described above, only one may be occupied, and then only for a limited time.

Any RV that is inoperative or unlicensed is considered junk. Outdoor storage of more than 500 square feet of junk is prohibited.

Can I have an RV in the floodplain?

RVs in the special flood hazard areas - A unnumbered, A1, A10, A12, A15, A16, A18, A21-22, V1, V4, AO, and AH must:

1. Be on site for fewer than 180 consecutive days, and
2. Be fully licensed and ready for highway use without the requirement for special highway permits.
3. Be towable by a regular duty truck without the requirement for special licenses.
4. Be on its wheels or jacking system.
5. Be attached to the site only by quick disconnect type utilities and security devices, and
6. Have no permanently attached additions.

Can I have an RV in the floodway?

RVs in the floodway must:

1. Be fully licensed and ready for highway use without the requirement for special highway permits.
2. Be towable by a regular duty truck without the requirement for special licenses.
3. Be on its wheels or jacking system.
4. Be attached to the site only by quick disconnect type utilities and security devices, and
5. Have no permanently attached additions.

RVs are prohibited in the floodway from November through April (except for a weekend or holiday use of a period not to exceed 14 days).

Is a “park model” considered an RV?

Yes. A park model is an RV, subject to all the same requirements.

Park model trailers are defined as: A type of recreational vehicle that is primarily designed to provide **temporary living quarters for recreational**, camping, or seasonal use that is built on a single chassis mounted on wheels, has a gross trailer weight area not exceeding 400 square feet in set-up mode and is certified by the manufacturer as complying with ANSI A119.5

- **Labor and Industries Park Model Definition:**

Park Models follow ANSI A119.5 regulations created for recreational use, while mobile homes comply to HUD standards for manufactured housing. See WAC296-150R Park Model RV with a tag that would be associated with this type of unit.

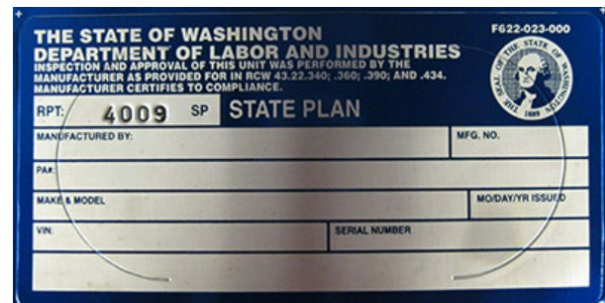
- **Park Models and Recreational Vehicles (RVs) are not dwelling units (LNI)**

An RV is not considered a permanent dwelling unit, but rather a vehicular unit designed for temporary, seasonal, or recreational use. While they may have living amenities, RVs are regulated under specific vehicle standards (NFPA 1192), not as residential housing.

Recreational vehicle label



Recreational park trailer label



Park Model Trailer



Do I need a permit if I have an RV?

No, if the RV meets the criteria in this handout, you don't need to obtain a county permit. All licensing of RV is through LNI and Washington Department of Motor Vehicles.

Who should I contact if I have questions?

You may contact us if you have any questions via:

Online: [Ask a Permit Tech](#)

Remember, asking questions first can save lots of headaches, heartaches, and money!