



Marijuana Regulations

#15

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SKAGITCOUNTYWA.GOV

Skagit County

Planning and
Development Services



Visit us at:

1800 Continental Place
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

360-416-1320



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

Marijuana production, processing, and retail facilities must obtain licenses from the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board (“WSLCB”).

Skagit County regulates land use in all unincorporated areas of the County (areas outside the cities and towns). In addition to the WSLCB License, approvals for land use and building permits are also required.

Marijuana facilities are allowed only where explicitly identified in the zoning chapter. The County considers marijuana production and processing to be an industrial use and does not meet the requirements for agricultural use.

What facilities are prohibited?

Skagit County Code (SCC) 14.10.070(3) **prohibits** the following uses and activities anywhere in unincorporated Skagit County:

- Marijuana production or processing in a greenhouse or any translucent structure
- Marijuana collection garden
- Marijuana cooperative
- Outdoor growing of marijuana

What zones allow marijuana production and processing facilities?

The Skagit County Zoning and Land Use Code identifies the following zones in which marijuana production and processing facilities are allowed:

- Bayview Ridge Light Industrial
- Bayview Ridge Heavy Industrial
- Urban Reserve Commercial-Industrial
- Agricultural-Natural Resource Lands (in structures existing as of January 1, 2014)

Marijuana processing using hazardous or flammable solvents or gases must meet the following:

- Be in the Bayview Ridge Heavy Industrial (BR-HI) zone
- Must be a marijuana processing facility
- Must have a professional-grade closed-loop extraction system that is designed to recover the chemicals and that is labeled for such use by the manufacturer.

What zones allow marijuana retail facilities?

- Rural Center
- Rural Freeway Service
- Rural Village Commercial
- Urban Reserve Commercial-Industrial

Can I grow medical marijuana?

Marijuana growing at home by individuals, when done with state law, is allowed in all zones. An **individual** may grow medical marijuana when:

- It is consistent with state laws and regulations governing medical marijuana.
- It is grown at home, indoors, and not in a greenhouse or other translucent structure; and
- The storage and growth cannot be readily seen by normal unaided vision or readily smelled from a public place or the private property of another housing unit.

Are there exceptions to the identified zones?

Yes, in municipal Urban Growth Areas where a municipality's development regulations apply, a marijuana facility must comply with the municipality's development regulations instead of this section.

Does the Liquor and Cannabis Board have regulations?

Yes, the WSLCB's licensing regulations impose restrictions on land use for marijuana facilities. Those regulations include:

- Prohibition on locations within 1000 feet from an "elementary or secondary school, playground, recreation center or facility, childcare center, public park, public transit center, library or arcade where admission is not restricted to those age 21 and older."
- Requirement for alarm systems and security cameras at licensed facilities.
- Requirement for signage prohibiting consumption of marijuana on premises and prohibiting access by persons under 21.
- Restrictions on advertising and packaging that appeal to children.
- Limited hours of operation.

Skagit County cannot aid in identifying separation distances or in complying with these or any of the other WSLCB rules. The WSLCB, not Skagit County, is responsible for enforcing these regulations.

For more information on the Liquor and Cannabis Board's process and regulations, please visit www.lcb.wa.gov.

How do I apply for a permit?

- People or entities interested in obtaining a marijuana license from the WSLCB must also obtain land use approval and building permits from Skagit County.
- No marijuana facility may operate in Skagit County if it does not have all required approvals from the WSLCB.
- WSLCB approval does not guarantee Skagit County land use approval, nor does it vest an applicant to Skagit County's current land use or building codes.
- Skagit County will not provide pre-approval for any WSLCB marijuana license. The Board of County Commissioners will only evaluate a license application when the WSLCB sends it to the County for possible objection.
- If the facility does not comply with the County land use and building regulations, the County will object to any license application or renewal notice and will pursue code enforcement action.
- Prior to applying for any permits with Skagit County a **Pre-development Meeting is required**.

Do I need a business license?

No, Skagit County does not have a business license program. You may still need a business license from the State of Washington. You can learn more about starting a business in Washington at www.ora.wa.gov/business.asp.

Does the Health Department review infused food products?

Under state law, the WSLCB has sole authority to regulate recreational marijuana, including "marijuana infused products." The County Health Department will not be involved in permitting or regulating such products.

Who should I contact if I have questions?

You may contact us if you have any questions via:

Online: [Ask a Permit Technician](#)

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