

# How to Apply for a Building Application in the Public Health Permit Center

The Building Application (BA) approval is required **before** most building permits can be issued so that Public Health—Seattle & King County can review the project for any impacts to your septic system.

For information on what projects will trigger the need for a Public Health Building Application, please contact the Department of Local Services (DLS) or your local Building Department.

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## **Before You Begin**

Make sure you know which type of Building Application you need. See Appendix A.

Each application has specific documentation requirements. To see the full list of application types and what you need to upload, view <u>Appendix A</u> at the end of this document.

#### **Commonly required documents include:**

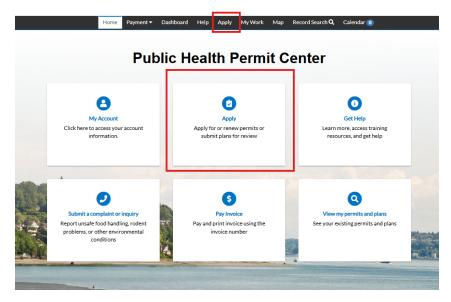
- A current septic system maintenance inspection report
  - Dated within the past 3 years for gravity and pump to gravity septic systems.
  - o Dated within the past year for OSS using pressure distribution.
- An approved OSS Record Drawing/As-built (see Appendix B for more information).
- Existing and proposed floor plans for every level of the house, including areas that construction is not taking place in.
- A detailed site plan that includes the septic system layout and reserve areas.

# **How to Apply**

Note: To apply, you first need to be logged into the Public Health Permit Center (PHPC). For detailed instructions on registering for an account, see <a href="How to Use the Public Health Permit Center">How to Use the Public Health Permit Center</a>.

Prior to uploading documents, you can save your application as a draft to easily come back and finish it later. The documents will be lost if you close the application after uploading them. We recommend waiting to upload documents until you are ready to submit the application.

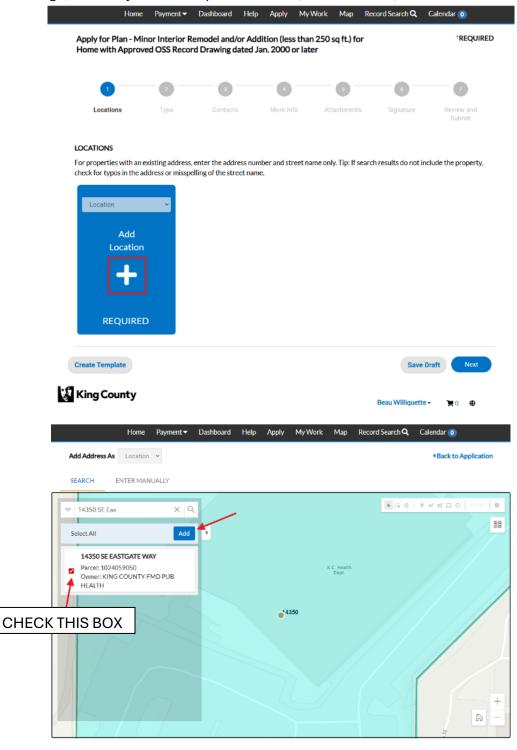
- **Find Draft Applications:** If you saved your work, log back into PHPC > click your name (top right) > select **Saved Work**.
  - 1. Select **Apply** and search for the correct Building Application type.





- 2. Search for the correct Building Application type. (See Appendix A)
- 3. Add your property location.

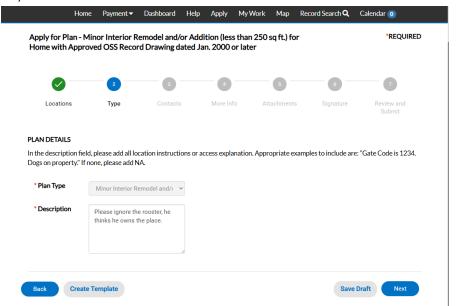
Click the + sign, search by address or parcel number, check the box, then click Add.





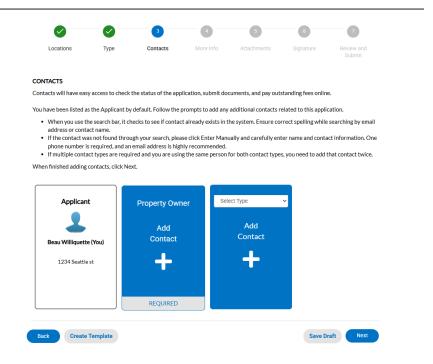
#### 4. Provide instructions for access.

Enter clear instructions for accessing the property. (i.e. "gate code is 1234", "dogs are friendly", "call for access")



#### 5. Add contacts.

You will automatically be listed as the applicant. Add the property owner and any other contacts as needed.





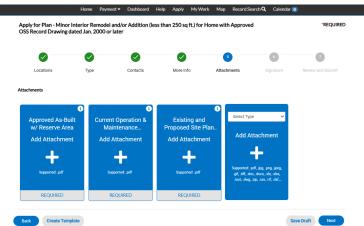
#### 6. Provide project details.

Fill out all required fields (marked with a red asterisk). Examples of information you may be asked for include:

- Age of the house
- Existing square footage and proposed additional square footage
- Number of existing bedrooms and proposed new bedrooms
- Whether there are detached buildings on the property
- · Whether any detached buildings have plumbing
- Distance to nearest public sewer
- Additions or repairs to on-site sewage system
- Water supply

#### 7. Upload required documents.

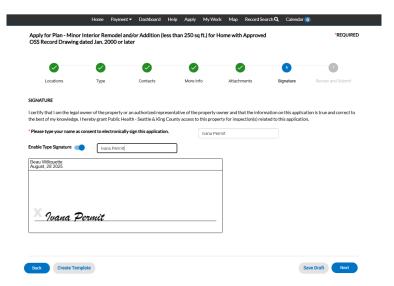
Attach all required reports and plans. You may add additional documents if helpful.



#### 8. Sign electronically.

Type or draw your signature.





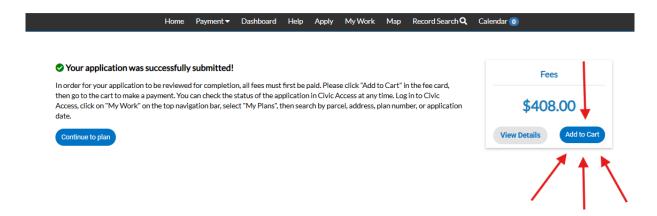
9. Review and submit.

Double-check your information. Click **Submit** when ready.

A confirmation screen will appear showing the applicable fees. **Note: Your application WILL NOT BE REVIEWED fees are paid.** To pay immediately, click **Add to Cart.** If an individual other than the applicant will be paying later, click on **Continue to Plan** to be directed to the Application Summary Page, and note the Plan Number at the top of the screen for reference (i.e. **OSS-BLDG-...**), this is the Record ID for the application.

#### To pay later:

- Anyone can go to the Public Health Permit Center with the Plan Number/Record ID, click
  Record Search and search using the Record ID.
- If you have an account and were added on as a contact
  - O Go to My Work > My Invoices to pay, or
  - o Go to My Work > My Plans > select the Plan Number for this project.

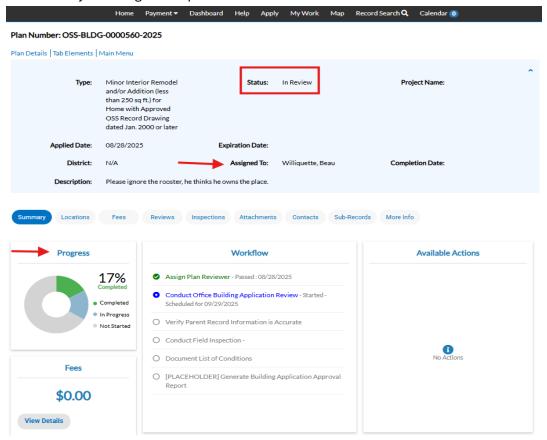


Your application will not be reviewed until fees are paid.



# **Tracking Your Application Progress**

- From the application summary screen, you can:
  - See required actions, resubmittals, or reinspections
  - o Upload additional documents under the Attachments tab
  - o Add additional contacts under the Contacts tab
  - View related inspections and sub-records
  - o Find your assigned inspector and review status



# **Tips & Reminders**

- Fees must be paid before review begins.
- Make sure your uploaded documents are clear and complete.
- If an inspector requests additional information, upload it under Attachments in your application summary.
- Save your Plan Number (i.e. **OSS-BLDG-**...) for reference.



# **Appendix A: Building Application Types & Required Documentation**

#### Simple Applications (reduced fee, requires approved OSS record drawing with reserve area)

- 1. Minor Interior Remodel and/or Addition (less than 250 sq ft) for Home with Approved OSS Record Drawing dated Jan. 2000 or later
- 2. Deck Construction
  - \*\*Only submit this application if you have an approved record drawing with a designated reserve
- 3. New Building, No Plumbing

#### To qualify, you must upload:

- Current maintenance inspection report (within 3 years for gravity systems, within 1 year for pressure systems)
- Approved record drawing with reserve area (see <u>Appendix B</u>)
- Existing and proposed floor plans or construction plans
- Detailed site plan

#### Applications (full review)

- 1. Commercial-to-Commercial Change of Use
- 2. Residential-to-Commercial Change of Use
- 3. Conversion of Existing Garage/Shop into Living Space
- 4. Deck Construction (no approved OSS record drawing)
- 5. General Interior Remodel and/or Addition of an Existing House Footprint
- 6. Mobile Home Replacement with an Approved Record Drawing
- 7. New Building, No Plumbing, No Approved Record Drawing
- 8. New Building, No Plumbing, Record Drawing without Reserve Area
- 9. New Building, Plumbing, Approved Record Drawing
- 10. New Building, Plumbing, No Approved Record Drawing
- 11. New Building, Plumbing, Record Drawing without Reserve Area

#### Documentation that may be required for Applications (Full Review):

- Current maintenance inspection report (within 3 years for gravity systems, within 1 year for pressure systems)
- Existing and proposed floor plans or construction plans
- Detailed site plan showing proposed work
- Easements impacting the property or drainfield
- Covenants impacting the property
- A reserve area designated by a licensed OSS designer or professional engineer (soil logs included)
- Certificate of Sewer Availability (if within 200-ft of sewer)

#### Additional requirements for applications with no approved record drawing may include:

Site sketch/OSS locate from a licensed maintenance provider



# Appendix B: How to Tell if You Have an Approved Record Drawing

## **Step 1: Search for Your Septic Records**

- 1. Go to the King County septic records map: Septic & Group B Records.
- 2. Enter your address or parcel number.
- 3. Select your parcel to view associated septic permitting records.

## **Step 2: Identify a Record Drawing**

When reviewing the septic permitting records for your parcel, look for a document labeled:

- "(yyyy-mm-dd) Asbuilt" for most systems, or
- "(No Date) Unindexed" for older systems.

An approved record drawing will have:

- A cover letter titled "As-Built Sewage Disposal Plan"
- A drawing stamped or signed by a licensed OSS designer or professional engineer, and
- Stamped or signed by Public Health Seattle & King County (PHSKC) with the words "As-Built"

## Step 3: Upload to PHPC

Once you locate your approved record drawing:

- 1. Save a copy of the PDF to your computer.
- 2. Log into the Public Health Permit Center (PHPC).
- 3. During your Building Application, upload the document under the Attachments section.

## **Identifying an Approved Reserve Area**

Every septic system must have a reserve area, which is a designated backup location for a replacement drainfield if the primary system fails.

- **Newer systems:** The reserve area is clearly labeled on the record drawing, usually with the type of system specified.
- Older systems: The reserve area may be labeled only as "reserve area" without details.
- **Very old systems:** The reserve area may not appear at all on the record drawing. In these cases, it may be shown only on the original site application design plans.

#### If the reserve area is missing from your record drawing:

• Combine the approved record drawing and the site application page showing the reserve area into a single PDF before uploading it in PHPC.

## **Important Note on Reserve Areas**

If the reserve area shown on your documents has been impacted by development or if setbacks have not been maintained, it is no longer considered an approved reserve area. In this case, you may need to work with a **licensed On-Site System (OSS) designer** or **professional engineer** to designate a new reserve area and provide soil logs for review. You can contact the Septic Expert at 206-477-8177 for more guidance on what to do in this scenario.