

# FORM AND CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT PERMIT NUMBERS 3-8 AND 10 APPLICATION GUIDE



TOWN OF GIBSONS

[www.gibsons.ca](http://www.gibsons.ca)

May 2025

This brochure provides an overview of the steps involved in the Development Permit application process. This is a general guide only. It is not meant to replace bylaws or other legal documents. Applicants are advised to meet with the Planning Department to discuss their specific development proposal and to consult the relevant bylaws referenced in this document prior to submitting an application.

### WHAT IS A DEVELOPMENT PERMIT?

A Form and Character Development Permit regulates the look and feel of multifamily, commercial and intensive residential development. A Development Permit is required before any changes can be made to properties that are within Development Permit Areas (including the removal of trees and vegetation). Development Permits help to ensure that growth and development is consistent with the Town's goals and objectives.

Specific areas of Gibsons have been designated as Development Permit Areas and each of these areas has a set of development guidelines which outline the Town's development objectives for that area. The guidelines for each Development Permit Area are outlined in [Section 16 of the Official Community Plan \(OCP\)](#).

A Development Permit for a proposed project is approved and issued by Council when they are satisfied that the project meets the guidelines and conditions for the Development Permit Area. Once approved, the conditions of the Development Permit are binding on both the Town and existing and future owners of the property. Development Permits are registered at the Land Titles Office, appear on the title of the property and are kept on record at Municipal Hall. A Development Permit is not a Building Permit and you still need to apply for a Building Permit after the Development Permit has been issued.

### WHEN DO YOU NEED A DEVELOPMENT PERMIT?

The Local Government Act enables Municipalities to designate Development Permit Areas (DPAs) for the following purposes:

- To achieve objectives for the form and character of commercial, industrial or multi-family development;
- To achieve objectives for the form and character of intensive residential development; and,
- To revitalize specific commercial areas.

Maps showing the location of all Development Permit areas in Gibsons are contained within [Section 14.0 of the OCP](#). All commercial, industrial and multi-family properties in the Town of Gibsons require a Development Permit prior to development. Some minor developments are exempted as outlined in Section 16.1 of the Official Community Plan Guidelines. Development Permits are required prior to subdivision approval, land clearing, disturbance of soil, or building permit approval in Development Permit Areas.

### APPLICATION FEE

At the time of submitting the application, you are required to pay the application fee, which is based on the size and scale of the project. This fee is non-refundable and is intended to recover a portion of the costs of processing the application. Current fees are:

#### *Form and Character*

\$1500 base fee (includes first unit), plus:

- \$100 per unit to a maximum of \$10,000

Fees are subject to change: please check with the Planning Department to confirm the correct amount.

### **STEPS TO DEVELOPMENT PERMIT ISSUANCE**

#### **STEP 1 – PRE-APPLICATION MEETING**

Before submitting an application, you are advised to meet with the Planning Department to review your proposed plans to:

- Review the zoning of the property and the requirements for land use, building setbacks, parking, and landscaping requirements;
- Determine whether any other development applications need to be completed concurrently with the Development Permit application (i.e. Rezoning, OCP Amendment, Development Variance Permit, or another type of Development Permit);
- Review the Official Community Plan to ensure your proposal meets with the guidelines of the one Development Permit Area (DPA) within which the subject property is contained; and,
- Consider the servicing requirements, development cost charges and other costs that may be required for your proposal.

Applicants are advised to consult with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans early in the process for development along the marine shore, and with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure early in the process for development in close proximity to highway 101.

#### **STEP 2 – SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION**

Please note that during a pre-application meeting, staff will be able to advise applicants of the material needed. Some of the materials specified above may not be applicable for all application submissions.

Once you have refined your project proposal, submit a completed application that includes:

- A completed application form signed by registered owner(s) of the property. If applicable, written authorization for an agent to act on behalf of the registered owner(s) of the subject property may be required.
- Payment of Application Fee.
- Certificate of Title - must be dated within 30 days of application.
- Site Plan: Showing the dimensions of the proposed development in metric scale.

## DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION GUIDE

- Fully dimensioned metric plans prepared by a B.C. Land Surveyor if applicable. Must include:
  - gross site area, dimensions, and proposed use of all lots
  - all existing structures on the property and distances from existing or proposed lot lines
  - location of roads, lanes, walkways, and park dedications
  - location and purpose of existing easements, rights-of-way or covenants on the property
  - contour plan from a topographic survey
- Proposal Summary: Table summary of how the proposed development conforms to each of the applicable Development Permit Area Guidelines listed in the OCP. In the proposal summary, use the headings under the “Guidelines” section of the applicable Development Permit Area in the OCP (Sections 14.2 to 14.7) as headings in your summary to ensure that you are stating how the proposal meets each guideline, or where it is not possible to meet a guideline explain why it is not possible.
- Proposal Details: High-resolution digital copy of reduced drawings (in PDF format) including:
  - scaled building sections and elevations, access, and parking details
  - scaled building design and siting plans to specify building materials and exterior finish
  - preliminary engineering plans for water, sanitary and storm sewer services
  - plans prepared by a Landscape Architect showing existing vegetation and proposed landscaping. A cost estimate for the proposed landscaping must be submitted along with the landscape plan.
- Where required by the BC Building Code, the Professional Governance Act or where determined necessary by the Building Official, plans must be sealed by a Registered Architect
- Per Tree Protection Bylaw 1282; a tree cutting and replacement plan drawn to approximate scale identifying:
  - the location, species and diameter at breast height (DBH) of those trees proposed to be cut or removed
  - the location, species and DBH of those trees proposed to be retained and protected
  - the location, species and DBH of proposed replacement trees
  - the location of proposed tree protection barriers
- A project summary sheet outlining gross site area, density and number of dwelling units, site coverage, heights, setbacks and other relevant data.
- Pursuant to the BC Contaminated Sites Regulation; all development applications to the Town include a completed [Site Disclosure Statement](#).
  - A Site Disclosure Statement is a form that requires readily available information about the past and present [Schedule 2](#) uses of a site, as well as basic land descriptions. The site owner, operator or agent can fill out the form, but only the site owner or operator can sign the form.
  - The Town will review the statement prior to proceeding with the application to determine if further review is required by the Province.

### STEP 3 – APPLICATION REVIEW

Before review begins, applications are checked for completeness and will be returned without review if any required items are missing. Completed applications are referred to the Planning Department, Infrastructure Services Department and Building Official.

One or more of the following agencies may also be involved in the review process:

- Gibsons and District Volunteer Fire Department
- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
- Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- RCMP
- School District #46
- Vancouver Coastal Health

Upon receipt of all staff and referral comments, a detailed staff report is prepared. The Planning Department report summarizes the proposal, includes staff comments, analyzes the proposal for consistency with the Town's Official Community Plan and sustainability criteria, and makes a recommendation to Council.

### STEP 4 – COUNCIL MEETING

Committee of the Whole meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month. Council meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of every month.

The Mayor and four Councillors are present at the Committee meetings. Applications are sent to Committee meetings first. This is where the Director of Planning describes the project to Council and enables Council to have a discussion about the project.

The application is then taken to Council where Council will authorize issuance of the Development Permit, reject it, or require amendments to be made. Issuance of concurrent development applications may be required prior to issuance of the Development Permit (i.e. A Development Variance Permit required for siting of the development proposed in the Development Permit application would have to be issued before the Development Permit could be issued). It is highly recommended that the applicant(s) attend the Council Meeting in order to answer any questions that the Council members may have regarding the proposal.

### STEP 5 – REGISTRATION AT LAND TITLES OFFICE

Once approved, Development Permits are registered by the Town at the Land Titles Office, which means that the Development Permit is registered on the title of the property. Applicants will receive a copy of the Permit in the mail.

### WHAT'S NEXT?

Apply for a Building Permit. At the time of the Building Permit application, you may need to hire consultants, such as an independent civil engineering firm to design the on-site servicing when it is not in place and assist with the application requirements.

Most applications for commercial, industrial, or multi-family development require a security deposit for the value of the proposed landscaping works.

At the time of the Building Permit application you will need to:

- Review the required engineering services for the property. It is the applicants' responsibility to provide all necessary off-site servicing upgrades (i.e. roads, water, sewer, drainage, street lighting, curb, gutter and sidewalk) to the [Subdivision and Development Servicing and Stormwater Management Bylaw No. 1175, 2012](#) standards. When off-site servicing is required, the applicant will be required to enter into a Servicing Agreement with the Town.
- Hire a consultant, such as an independent civil engineering firm, to design the off-site servicing and assist with the Servicing Agreement requirements.
- Pay [Development Cost Charges Bylaw No.1218, 2016](#).

### CONTACTS

Town of Gibsons Planning Department: 604-886-2274

Town of Gibsons Infrastructure Services Department: 604-886-2274

Town of Gibsons Building Department: 604-886-2274

Gibsons and District Volunteer Fire Department: 604-885-8670

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure: 604-740-8985

This brochure is meant for guidance only and is not intended to replace the requirements of the *Local Government Act* and applicants should obtain copies of the relevant bylaws before proceeding with development applications. For specific information, please contact the staff at:

Town of Gibsons  
474 South Fletcher Road, Box 340  
Gibsons, B.C. V0N 1V0



Planning Department  
474 South Fletcher Road | Box 340, Gibsons, BC V0N 1V0  
Phone: 604-886-2274 | Fax: 604-886-9735 www.gibsons.ca

## DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AREA NUMBERS 3-8 AND 10 APPLICATION FORM

Please read the attached Development Permit Application Guide before filling out this application form. If you have any questions or require assistance in filling out this form, contact the Planning Department. The processing of your application will be delayed if it is incomplete. Mail or deliver the completed application form, fee, plans and supporting material to the Town of Gibsons Planning Department and make your fee payable to the Town of Gibsons. Contact the Town of Gibsons Planning staff for the current fee prior to submitting your application as fees may change annually, or consult the Development Procedures and Fees Bylaw.

I am applying for a new Development Permit

I am applying for a new Development Permit and a Development Variance Permit

I am applying for an amendment to an existing Development Permit

### SECTION 1: DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Lot/Parcel \_\_\_\_\_ Plan \_\_\_\_\_ Block \_\_\_\_\_

District Lot/Section \_\_\_\_\_ Range \_\_\_\_\_

Other Description Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Jurisdiction and Folio Number (From Property Assessment/Tax Notice) \_\_\_\_\_

Parcel Identifier (PID) (From State of Title Certificate) \_\_\_\_\_

### SECTION 2: APPLICANT/AGENT INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Province/State \_\_\_\_\_

Province/State \_\_\_\_\_

Postal/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Postal/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

This information is collected in compliance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA). If you require further information regarding the FOIPPA please contact the FOI Coordinator at 604-886-2274 or the Information and Privacy Commissioner at 1-800-663-7867.

### **SECTION 3: PROPERTY OWNER INFORMATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### **SECTION 4: PLANS AND SUPPORTING MATERIAL CHECKLIST**

All applicants must provide one full scale (not less than 1:100 metric) detailed site plan and one set of the high-resolution digital drawings (in PDF, EPS, TIFF or JPEG format). Detailed requirements and supporting materials required vary by Development Permit Area (DPA). If you are unsure which DPA applies to your application, please contact Planning staff.

Tick the Development Permit Area(s) that your property is within (see Appendices in the Official Community Plan for maps):

- No. 3 Upper Gibsons Commercial Area
- No. 4 Multi-family Land Uses
- No. 5 Gibsons Landing
- No. 6 Service Commercial/ Light Industrial
- No. 7 Live/ work
- No. 8 Intensive Residential
- No. 10 Gospel Rock Village



## **SECTION 4A: REQUIRED PLANS AND SUPPORTING MATERIAL FOR FORM AND CHARACTER DPAS**

If you are applying for a Development Permit within DPAs No. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10 which establish form and character guidelines and promote commercial revitalization, please submit the following plans and materials (check each box to indicate the requested document is enclosed):

A detailed site plan including:

- Existing and proposed uses on parcel
- Dimensions and/or floor areas (each floor) of all existing and any proposed buildings on the property
- Parking areas including numbered parking stalls, aisle widths, stall dimensions (where applicable)
- Setbacks for all existing and proposed buildings to property lines, natural boundary of sea, watercourses and cliffs
- Location of roads, lanes, walkways, and park dedications
- Height of existing and proposed buildings/additions
- Locations and dimensions of all legal easements, covenant areas, and utility corridors on the property
- Exterior lighting location and design
- Location of all Municipal services (storm, water, sewer etc.) on and off site

Supporting materials required:

- Scaled building sections and elevations
- Floor plans indicating uses and functions within building(s)
- Access, and parking layout details
- Scaled building design and siting plans to specify building materials, exterior finish, colour scheme and other architectural details
- Preliminary engineering plans for water, sanitary and storm sewer services
- Plans prepared by a Landscape Architect showing existing vegetation and proposed landscaping to the standard of the Town's Landscape Policy
- Site Disclosure Statement

Supporting materials:

- A project summary sheet outlining gross site area, net density, number of dwelling units, site coverage, heights, setbacks and other relevant data.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

If the space provided below for each section is not sufficient, please attach additional information using a Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Text or a separate PDF Document.

### **SECTION 5: DESCRIBE THE CURRENT USE(S) OF THE LAND AND STRUCTURE(S) ON THE PROPERTY**

### **SECTION 6: DESCRIBE THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

### **SECTION 7: APPLICATION COMPLETION**

Initial or check each of the following:

- I have completed all sections of this application form
- I have included detailed site plans and elevation drawings as required in Section 4 of this application form
- I have included the additional documentation and reports required in Section 4 of this application form
- I have included recent State of Title Certificate (not more than 30 days old). The Town can obtain this for a fee.
- I have included copies of all covenants registered against this title
- All owners listed on the title have signed the application
- I have included the correct fee
- I have included a Site Disclosure Statement

Please Note: Your application will not be considered complete and cannot be processed unless it contains all of the information above. Please also review all relevant bylaws including the Official Community Plan (Bylaw 985 and associated amendments), and the Development Procedures and Fees Bylaw.

**SECTION 8: OWNER’S CONSENT AND AUTHORIZATION**

To process the application the signature of all registered owners is required. For additional owners, including Strata Corporations, attach a separate sheet.

In order to assist the Town of Gibsons in the review and evaluation of my application, by signing below, I authorize the Planner(s) assigned to this application to enter onto the land at reasonable times, after making reasonable efforts to arrange to schedule a convenient time for such a visit, to inspect the land. I acknowledge a right, if a convenient time can be scheduled, to accompany the Planner on the site visit.

By signing below, I authorize the Applicant named in Section 2 of this application to represent this application:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Owner One, Full Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Owner Two, Full Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorization Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorization Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





## SCHEDULE 1 SITE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Has the site been used for any industrial or commercial purposes or activities described in [SCHEDULE 2](#) of the Contaminated Sites Regulation?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Exemptions (See the Contaminated Sites Regulation, Division 3 of Part 2):

Does the application qualify for an exemption from submitting a site disclosure statement?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, indicate which exemption applies \_\_\_\_\_

### I. CONTACT INFORMATION

A: SITE OWNER(s) or OPERATOR(s)			
LAST NAME		FIRST NAME(s)	
COMPANY (if applicable)			
ADDRESS - STREET		CITY	
PROVINCE/STATE	COUNTRY		POSTAL CODE
PHONE		E-MAIL	

B: PERSON COMPLETING SITE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (Leave blank if same as above)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agent authorized to complete form on behalf of the owner or operator	
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME(s)
COMPANY (if applicable)	

C: PERSON TO CONTACT REGARDING THE SITE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT			
LAST NAME		FIRST NAME(s)	
COMPANY (if applicable)			
ADDRESS - STREET		CITY	
PROVINCE/STATE	COUNTRY		POSTAL CODE
PHONE		E-MAIL	

## II. SITE INFORMATION

Coordinates (using the North American Datum 1983 convention) for the centre of the site:

Latitude			Longitude		
DEGREES	MINUTES	SECONDS	DEGREES	MINUTES	SECONDS

☐ Attach a map of appropriate scale showing the location and boundaries of the site.

### For Legally Titled, Registered Property

SITE ADDRESS (or nearest street name/intersection if no address assigned)	
CITY	POSTAL CODE

PID	Land Description	Add	Delete
		+	-

### For Untitled Crown Land

PIN numbers and associated Land Description (if applicable)

PIN	Land Description	Add	Delete
		+	-

And if available

Crown Land File Numbers	Add	Delete
	+	-

## III. INDUSTRIAL OR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES OR ACTIVITIES

In the format of the example provided, which of the industrial or commercial purposes or activities have occurred or are occurring on this site.

### EXAMPLE

Schedule 2 Reference	Description
E1	appliance, equipment or engine maintenance, repair, reconditioning, cleaning or salvage
F10	solvent manufacturing, bulk storage, shipping or handling

Schedule 2 Reference	Description	Add	Delete
		+	-

## IV. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Provide a brief summary of the planned activity and proposed land use at the site.

2. Indicate the information used to complete this site disclosure statement including a list of record searches completed.

3. List any past or present government orders, permits, approvals, certificates or notifications pertaining to the environmental condition of the site. (Attach extra pages, if necessary):

## V. DECLARATIONS

Where a municipal approval is not required, please indicate the reason for submission directly to the registrar:

- ☐ Under Order      ☐ Foreclosure      ☐ CCAA Proceedings      ☐ BIA Proceedings
- ☐ Decommissioning      ☐ Ceasing Operations

By signing below, I confirm that the information in this form is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge:

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE SIGNED (YYYY-MM-DD)

### APPROVING AUTHORITY CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME	AGENCY
ADDRESS	
PHONE	E-MAIL

Reason for submission (Please check one or more of the following):

- ☐ Building Permit      ☐ Subdivision      ☐ Zoning      ☐ Development Permit

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE RECEIVED (YYYY-MM-DD)

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE SUBMITTED TO REGISTRAR (YYYY-MM-DD)