



# Major Development Permits

Discretionary Permits

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## What is a Major Development (Major Project) Permit?

The terms Major Development and Major Project are interchangeable.

A Major Development/Project permit is essentially a Conditional Use Permit for a large-scale project. It is required if a project meets any **two** of the following conditions:

- The cost of construction exceeds \$5,000,000 (exclusive of land value.)
- The size for retail development is 75,000 square feet or greater.
- The size for office or industrial is 200,000 square feet or greater.
- The number of residential units is 300 or greater.
- The number of motel/hotel units is 200 or greater.
- The number of employees is 250 or greater.

- An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required.

The permit is essentially processed in the same manner as a CUP, except that a master plan is required and final approval is done by the County Council following recommendations by Staff and the Hearing Examiner.

## Fees

Please refer to the current Whatcom County Unified Fee Schedule.

## Information

Due to the administrative complexity of these regulations, it is usually best to visit with PDS staff or contact a Planner to answer any additional questions.

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