



# Land Disturbance Permits



## What is a Land Disturbance Permit (LDP)?

A land disturbance permit is a permit designed to help or minimize impacts and safe guard life, limb, property, and the public welfare by regulating grading and clearing on public and private properties.

A series of reviews by knowledgeable staff takes place to insure that land disturbance activities are done in a responsible manner within the context of the requirements set out in the International Building Code (IBC) and the Whatcom County Critical Areas Ordinance. The review process provides information to applicants on specific requirements allowed by these laws.

## When do I need a land disturbance permit?

The thresholds for a land disturbance permit vary depending on the zoning designation, and amount of fill, grading and clearing.

Furthermore, activities involving clearing, filling, and/or grading may need to be reviewed for critical areas.

## What information do I provide on the application?

- Contact person and daytime phone number
- Tax parcel number

- Land disturbance application – fill out all appropriate information, including a statement of size and scope of project
- Site plan
- Application fee

## How do I prepare my site for an inspection?

- Site must be flagged prior to inspection,
- Location of structure and driveway,
- Address or name posted on site,
- Clearing boundaries, and
- Erosion control as needed.

## What is the review process for my project?

Once you submit a **complete** application, staff determines what reviews are required. These reviews might include State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), critical areas, shorelines, and/or flood review. The application is then sent to the applicable staff and departments. When all of the review procedures are complete, you will receive a determination letter by mail, stating that your permit is ready and what fees are due.

## How long does the review and approval process take?

Review and approval varies depending on the scope and nature of the project. If your project needs to be evaluated using the SEPA checklist, allow for additional time for SEPA review.

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## **Do I need further review or inspections after I receive my permit?**

Additional inspections may be required while your project is in progress and upon completion of your project, depending on its size and scope.

## **Will my permit expire?**

Yes. A land disturbance permit will expire 180 days from the date of application, and/or 180 days from the date of issuance.

## **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 our Natural Resource staff to answer any additional questions.

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