



BROCHURE # 38

TIMBER HARVEST (FOREST PRACTICES)



Timber harvest activities are regulated through [Kitsap County Code Chapter 18.16](#), and the [Washington State Forest Practices Act RCW 76.09](#).

A Kitsap County Timber Harvest Permit is required for certain tree clearing activities. In addition, a Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Forest Practices Application (FPA) is required for most tree clearing activities.

Permits are required for the following tree clearing activities:

- Removal of more than 5,000 board feet (the volume of a one-foot length of a board one foot wide and one inch thick) of merchantable timber. 1 ½ logging trucks is approximately 5,000 board feet of lumber
- Conversion of forested lands for future development
- The underlying parcel is greater than two acres in size.



Please visit the Department of Natural Resources website for Forest Practice Application guidance: <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/programs-and-services/forest-practices>

If you intend to develop your property within three years of logging, it is considered a “Conversion” Forest Practice Application. You must complete the Department of Natural Resources application forms *and* the Kitsap County Timber Harvest Permit Application packet. The Department of Natural Resources application forms are included in the Kitsap County packet.



If you intend to continue growing trees for at least three years after the proposed logging activity, a “Non-Conversion” Forest Practice Application must be obtained directly from the Department of Natural Resources. A Kitsap County Timber Harvest Permit *will not* be required. *Please be aware*, a 6-year development moratorium (a temporary prohibition of activity) will be placed on these logged properties. This will prevent you from applying for any development permits with the Kitsap County Department of Community Development during the moratorium.

If you are undecided about future development activities or you want to avoid a development moratorium you may apply for a Conversion Option Harvest Plan (COHP) through the Kitsap County Timber Harvest Permit and Department of Natural Resources Forest Practice Application process. A COHP is an agreement between the applicant and Kitsap County that may allow a limited tree harvest under less restrictive permit conditions. Kitsap County agrees not to impose a moratorium if you comply with COHP conditions of approval. If the terms of the COHP are violated, the County may impose a 6-year moratorium on permits.

Property logged without a Timber Harvest Permit from Kitsap County will receive an automatic 6-year moratorium for development permits *even if otherwise permitted through the Department of Natural Resources.*



Application forms:

The Timber Harvest Permit Application form and associated State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) checklist forms are available on the Kitsap County Department of Community Development home page, under Forms and Brochures (www.kitsapgov.com/dcd/forms). Contact Development Services and Engineering at (360) 337-5777 should you have any questions about the review process.

Application fee:

Timber Harvest Permits are reviewed as a “Major” or “Minor” application. The only difference between them is the amount of time staff estimates it will take to review your permit.

More complicated projects (properties with critical areas, more than one parcel, or harvests associated with large commercial projects) typically require more review than simple harvests associated with single family developments. The fee deposit is collected at the time of permit submittal. If it takes less time than anticipated to review the permit, a refund may be issued. If it takes more time, a bill may be sent. A fee schedule can be viewed on the Department of Community Development home page (www.kitsapgov.com/dcd). Please note that additional hourly fees may be required based on the size and complexity of the project.

Other permits that may be required:

- Site Development Activity Permit (SDAP) for grading activities, clearing, or drainage
- Permit to work in a County Right-of Way
- Road Approach Permit (for installation of access roads onto a county road)
- Danger Tree Site Assessment for evaluation of danger tree removal
- Danger Tree Harvest Site Assessment for evaluation of harvest, under the threshold for Forest Practice Applications
- Removal of trees within a critical area or a required buffer zone

