

Short-Term Rental FAQ

What is a short-term rental?

A dwelling unit or individual rooms within a dwelling unit that are rented to a guest(s) by a short-term rental operator for fewer than 30 consecutive days. A short-term rental is not considered a hotel, motel or bed and breakfast.

Where are short-term rentals permitted?

Short-term rentals are permitted within a legally established dwelling unit.

Do I need to notify my neighboring property owners that I will be using my dwelling as a short-term rental?

Prior the short-term rental application to the City, the owner shall provide a courtesy notice regarding the short-term rental to all property owners abutting or adjacent to the proposed short-term rental. The notification shall include a description of the operation, number of bedrooms to be rented to overnight guests and contact information for the owner or operator by phone.

How do I obtain a permit?

A short-term rental permit is required from the City of Vancouver. Please contact the City of Vancouver for the short-term permit application form. The submittal items include:

- An affidavit of mailing showing proof a letter describing the proposed short-term rental was sent to abutting and adjacent property owners
- Copy of liability insurance
- Acknowledgement in writing that the short-term rental shall comply with the required standards in VMC 20.835.050.
- Application fee

How can I prevent complaints being lodged with the City about my short-term rental?

By ensuring that the short-term rental does not generate measurable levels at the property line dust, smoke, odor or glare or noise beyond those associated with a residential use. Additionally, by abiding by the short-term rental good neighbor policy.

What will the City do if they receive a complaint regarding a short-term rental?

The City will investigate the complaint and determine if a violation has occurred. The City will then respond in concert with the seriousness and severity of the violation and may use one or a combination of the enforcement mechanisms including correction notices, notice of violation and an order to revoke the permit.