

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions Farm Product Processing

Q: What is Farm Product Processing?

A: The use of buildings and/or structures on a farm to prepare agricultural products for market. On-farm processing activities typically include cleaning, sorting, separating, grading, packing, packaging, or undertaking processes such as mixing, drying, canning, smoking, size reduction, fermentation, or treatment by heat, cold, chemical, or biological means. Feed mills and cold storage buildings are also considered processing.

Q: Which properties are permitted Farm Product Processing?

A: An A Zoned lot within the ALR that has 'farm status', as per the *BC Assessment Act*, and is conducting an [Agricultural Use](#) may be eligible for Farm Product Processing - Level 1.

Q: Do I need approval from the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC)?

A: ALC approval is not required if at least 50% of the farm product being processed comes from your farm or from a cooperative association to which your farm belongs. In the case of feed used to raise animals/fish on a farm (feed mill), farm product that originates from elsewhere may be processed into feed if at least 50% of the feed is used for animals/fish on your farm. See [ALC Policy L-01](#) for more details on these requirements.

Q: How large can my processing facility be?

A: The A Zones allow the use of up to 2,500 m² (buildings and permanently covered structures) for farm product processing on a lot. However, processing of livestock meat, poultry meat, or aquaculture is limited to a maximum area of 500 m² per lot.

See the next page for an illustration of what is and isn't included in the floor area calculation.

Q: I need a larger processing facility - what are my options?

A: If a farm operation needs a processing facility that exceeds 2,500 m² (or more than 500 m² for meat or aquaculture), proposals will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis through an application for site specific rezoning. Application review will consider infrastructure impacts and compatibility with the surrounding area. Review is supported by Agriculture Advisory Committee input on farm operation needs and then considered by Council.

Please consider a [Development Inquiry Meeting \(DIM\)](#) for more information on the application process.

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Planning Services
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Q: My processing facility requires outdoor storage. How much space can I occupy?

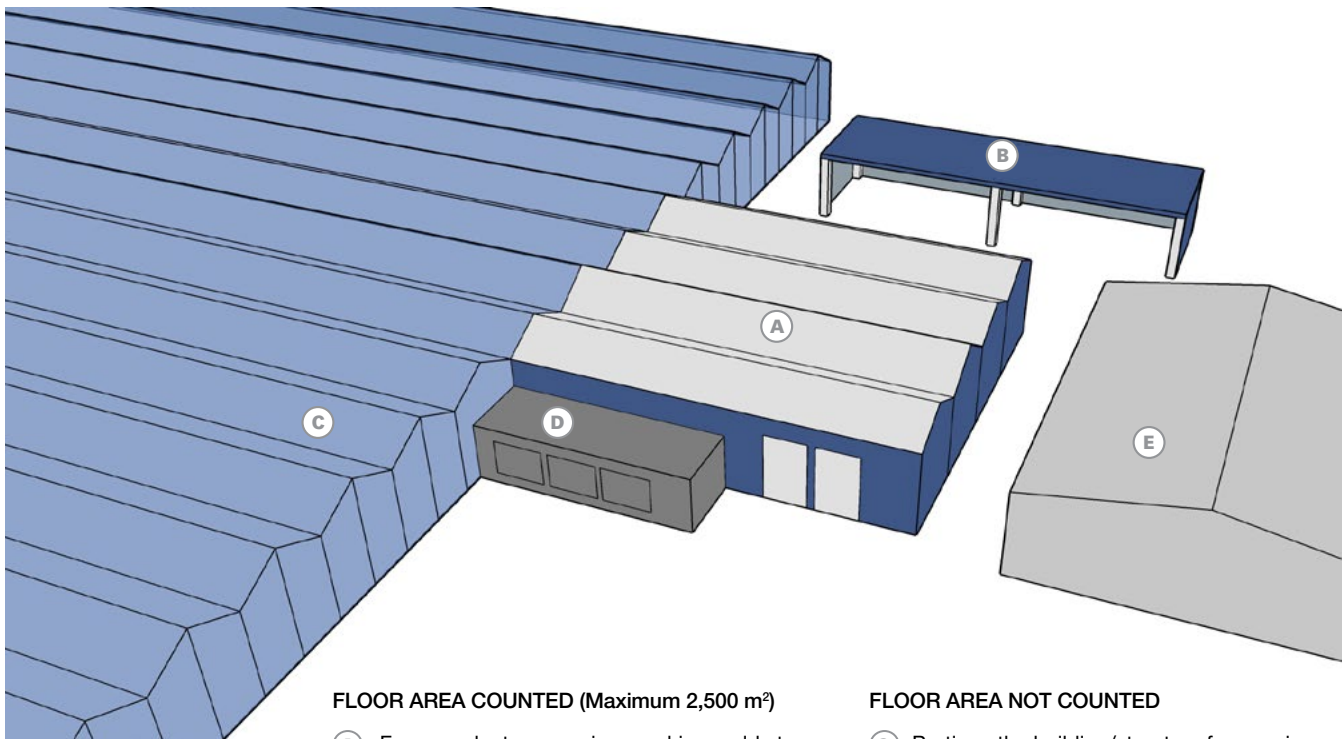
A: Outdoor storage affiliated with your processing facility may not exceed an area greater than the indoor processing facility itself. In other words, if your processing facility is 1,000 m² in size, outdoor storage of related items such as totes, crates, or equipment is limited to 1,000 m².

If this outdoor area is permanently covered it counts towards the 2,500 m² processing floor area limit.

Q: Can I have general farm product processing on the same lot as an alcohol production facility or cannabis processing.

A: Yes, however the total cumulative size of these uses cannot exceed 2,500 m² per lot.

Sample Illustration | Farm Production Processing



FLOOR AREA COUNTED (Maximum 2,500 m²)

- A** Farm product processing, packing, cold storage, loading, storage of processing outputs, general farm storage, and any portion of the building not exempt under C or D.
- B** Buildings or structures for the storage of containers or equipment associated with farm product processing activities.

FLOOR AREA NOT COUNTED

- C** Portions the building/structure for growing farm products or keeping livestock
- D** Up to 250 m² (10% of processing area) of building area used for farm office, washrooms, staff rooms
- E** Other detached buildings for general farm storage unrelated to farm product processing or cold storage

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Helpful Links:

[City of Abbotsford Zoning Bylaw \(key sections include: 120, 210.3, 210.4, and 210.9\)](#)

[City of Abbotsford Application Forms and Fees](#)

[ALR Use Regulation](#)

[ALC Policy L-01 Farm Product Processing in the ALR](#)

[ALC Policy L-24 Farm-Related Commercial and Farm-Related Industrial Uses](#)

[ALC Information Bulletin 07 - Soil or Fill Uses in the ALR](#)

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