

The good **NEIGHBOUR GUIDE**





A practical guide to

LIVE, WORK & PLAY

in Abbotsford

This guide was created to help residents and businesses understand the various regulations and bylaws to help ensure our community and neighbourhoods remain safe, healthy and a great place to live, work and play.

The Good Neighbour Guide summarizes the City of Abbotsford key bylaws in effect at the time of printing. Specific regulations are subject to change. For the most current information, please visit www.abbotsford.ca/laws.



Table of CONTENTS

04	Abandoned/Vacant Properties and Buildings	14	Light Pollution
05	Animal Control	15	Managing Wildlife
06	Business Licences	16	Noise
07	Construction in the Neighbourhood	17 - 18	Parking
08	Filming in Neighbourhoods	19	Property Maintenance
09	Fire Safety	20	Riparian Areas
10	Fireworks	21	Secondary Suites
11	Home Occupation Businesses	22	Trees
12	Hosting an Event	23	Traffic Calming
13	Invasive Species		



Abandoned/Vacant Properties and Buildings

Vacant properties pose fire and life safety risks for the community. Property owners must secure vacant properties and buildings that will not be re-occupied, including all structures on site.

i WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

UTILITIES: DISCONNECT ALL AT THE STREET

- Turn off water at the street, drain the system to its lowest point.
- Contact BC Hydro to disconnect electricity at the street.
- Gas to shut off and disconnect at the street.
- Contact the City's Engineering department for information on disconnecting city utilities.

REMOVE ALL FLAMMABLES AND COMBUSTIBLES FROM INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF STRUCTURES AND AROUND THE PROPERTY

- Remove any propane, natural gas, and heating oil tanks.
- Remove all furniture, combustible materials, and trash from the property and structures, including concealed spaces.
- Remove shrubbery and vegetation that could support or spread a fire.

SECURE UNOCCUPIED BUILDING TO PREVENT ENTRY

- Secure the premises against unauthorized entry within 24 hours of becoming vacant.
- Lock all intact windows and doors and consider putting up a fence around and within the property boundary.
- Be aware of any broken glass.

BOARDING UP

- Please contact Abbotsford Fire Rescue Services for guidance on approved board up (securement) procedures.

MAINTAIN

- Patrol the property often to ensure all security measures are in place.
- Ensure grass and other vegetation is kept trimmed and the boulevard kept clear.
- Re-secure as needed.

📄 HOW TO REPORT:

1. To report abandoned or vacant properties, please call: **604-864-5512**
2. Report online: www.abbotsford.ca/bylaw-service-request or through the **@abbotsford app**, available for free download.

🗣️ NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Bylaw Services

T: 604-864-5512

E: bylawservices@abbotsford.ca

W: www.abbotsford.ca/bylaws

Bylaw Listings: www.abbotsford.ca/laws

Engineering & Regional Utilities

(for all City utility disconnections)

T: 604-864-5514

E: eng-info@abbotsford.ca

Abbotsford Fire Rescue Service

T: 604-853-3566

E: fire-info@abbotsford.ca

W: www.abbotsford.ca/fire



Animal Control

The Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) provides Animal Control services for the City of Abbotsford and is responsible for all aspects of animal care and control including dog licensing, bylaw enforcement issues such as barking complaints, off leash infractions, and aggressive dog investigations. Animal control and care is regulated under the FVRD's Bylaw Consolidated Animal Control Regulations.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

NUMBER OF PETS PER HOUSEHOLD

- Residents are limited to 5 pets per property including not more than 3 dogs or 3 cats.

DOG LICENSING

- All dogs residing in Abbotsford over 4 months of age must be licensed.
- New licences and renewals can be purchased online from the FVRD's website at www.fvrd.ca or in person from the Cashiers Counter of City Hall at 32315 South Fraser Way, Abbotsford.

PUBLIC SPACES AND DOGS

- Dogs must be leashed at all times unless in a designated off-leash area. Leashes must not exceed 3 metres in length and must be in the immediate control of a competent person.
- Dogs that are found roaming off leash in Abbotsford are taken to the FVRD animal control facility at 44860 Wolfe Road, Chilliwack.

CLEANING UP AFTER YOUR PETS

- Owners are required to pick up, and properly dispose of their animals waste from private and public spaces.

BEEES, POULTRY & LIVESTOCK

- Chickens, livestock and beekeeping are not permitted in Abbotsford residential areas.
- Only permitted on properties zoned for such use.

NOISY PETS

- Unreasonably howling or barking dogs disturbs neighbourhoods. Please ensure that your pet does not bark or howl uncontrollably.

HOW TO REPORT:

1. To report an animal control issue call 1-844-495-2273 CARE or email animalcontrol@fvrd.ca
2. For dangerous dog calls after hours contact the Abbotsford Police non-emergency number at 604-859-5225 or text to 222973

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Animal Control and Licensing (FVRD)

T: 1-844-495-2273 (CARE)

E: animalcontrol@fvrd.ca

Website: www.fvrd.ca/EN/main/services/animal-control.html



Business Licences

A business cannot be opened or operated until the City of Abbotsford reviews the application and issues a business licence.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

NEW AND RENEWING BUSINESS LICENCES

Any activity or undertaking providing professional, personal or other service for the purposes of gain or profit requires a valid business licence.

Other than Temporary Licences, a business licence is valid for a 12-month period from the date of issuance. The City sends out a renewal notice approximately six weeks before the expiry date.

- All signs, other than signs located on a residential property to advertise a home-based business, require permits. A Sign Permit Application can be completed online at www.abbotsford.ca.
- Signs for home-based businesses do not require permits, but must comply with the regulations as outlined for Identification Signs in the Sign Bylaw.
- A permit is required for any building modifications made and any new plumbing installed including sprinklers. Paint, carpeting or cosmetic changes do not require a permit.
- All businesses located within the City of Abbotsford may be subject to an inspection.
- Once a business licence is issued, a business can start operating.
- The City of Abbotsford does not register business names, or issue GST or PST numbers. Contact OneStop at 1-877-822-6727 for further information.
- All business licences are non-transferable. A new application must be completed if your business moves or changes owners.

HOW TO REPORT:

1. To report a non-compliant business, please call: **604-864-5512**
2. Report online: www.abbotsford.ca/bylaw-service-request or through the **@abbotsford app**, available for free download.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Business Licences

T: 604-864-5525

E: businesslicence@abbotsford.ca

W: www.abbotsford.ca/business

Bylaw Listings: www.abbotsford.ca/laws

Bylaw Services:

T: 604-864-5512

E: bylawservices@abbotsford.ca

Bylaw Listings: www.abbotsford.ca/laws



Construction in the Neighbourhood

Construction can occur for any number of reasons in your neighbourhood. Builders need to be good neighbours when on site in a neighbourhood, and residents should be aware of what to expect when there are construction crews and builders in their neighbourhood.

i WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Builders must obtain all required permits and approvals (planning approvals – zoning, building permit, development permit, demolition permit, tree removal permit, soil removal and deposit permit and highway excavation permit).
- Inform all surrounding neighbours about your plans and what you are doing.
- Protect the immediate neighbourhood, including trees on and off the site.
- Keep the site clean at all times.
- Keep roads and sidewalks surrounding the site clean of mud, gravel, debris, etc.
- Respect hours of work and noise regulations. Construction work may be carried out between 7:00am and 9:00pm Monday to Saturday and 9:00am and 9:00pm on Sunday and any Statutory Holiday.
- Do not block driveways, sidewalks or lanes. Keep street and lanes passable.
- Do not park on boulevards.
- General contractor to ensure all sub-trades comply with related City Bylaws.
- Minimize dust, noise, and debris and undertake the work at a time which will not have a negative impact on the harmony of the neighbourhood.
- Do not use power or water from neighbouring properties without their consent.
- Secure the project site and building to restrict access by children, pets, or transient people.
- Storage containers are not allowed on the roadway or boulevard without City approvals.

📄 HOW TO REPORT:

1. Emergencies related to water and sewer concerns, traffic light malfunctioning, missing stop signs, please call: **604-864-5552**
2. To report a construction concerns, please call: **604-864-5512**
3. Report online: **www.abbotsford.ca/bylaw-service-request** or through the **@abbotsford app**, available for free download.

💬 NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Building Permits/ Building Approvals

T: 604-864-5525
E: building-info@abbotsford.ca
W: www.abbotsford.ca/permits

Tree Permits/ Tree Protection

T: 604-859-3134
E: prcoffice@abbotsford.ca
W: www.abbotsford.ca/permits

Highway Use Permit/ Soil Deposit/Removal Permit

T: 604-864-5514
E: eng-info@abbotsford.ca
W: www.abbotsford.ca/permits

Development Permit

T: 604-864-5510
E: planning-info@abbotsford.ca
W: www.abbotsford.ca/permits



Filming in Neighbourhoods

The City of Abbotsford is a popular location for film productions. Our community has been growing in popularity with film productions over the years due to our geographic location, diverse community landscapes, and our supportive businesses and residents.



i WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Each production is obligated to notify affected residents and businesses of upcoming filming by distributing a location letter. The letter contains the location and nature of the filming, proposed dates and times, and contact information.
- Film productions must comply with all applicable bylaws and permits when filming in the City of Abbotsford.
- Commercial vehicles are not permitted to park along City streets unless specified in a Highways Use Permit. Parking cannot not be reserved for film crews in residential neighbourhoods. On-street parking remains first come, first serve.

REGISTERING YOUR PROPERTY

If you are a property owner and interested in having your property considered as a filming location, contact Creative BC at www.creativebc.com. Property owners are responsible for negotiating the terms of use for their property directly with the production company.

🗨️ NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Economic Development

T: 604-864-5586

E: econdev@abbotsford.ca

Bylaw Listings: www.abbotsford.ca/laws



Fire Safety

There are many things you can do as a neighbour to prevent fires and ensure fire safety in your neighbourhood.

FIRE LANES

Fire lanes are put in place to allow the Abbotsford Fire Rescue Service access to the site so they can perform firefighting functions. The British Columbia Building Code requires that fire lanes must be a minimum 6 metres wide, 5 metres high clearance and have a 12 metre centre line radius.

- If a dead-end is over 90 metres in length, a fire truck turnaround must be installed.
- Turnarounds and fire lanes must be a solid surface that safely supports the weight of our heaviest apparatus.
- Fire lanes must be marked with signage approved by the Fire Chief.
- All gates and chains must be approved by the Abbotsford Fire Rescue Service.
- All gates and chains blocking public access to the fire lanes must be clearly marked on both sides. For signage requirements, refer to the **Fire Service Bylaw**.
- Property owners and managers should ensure trees and vegetation remain trimmed to meet height and width requirements of the fire lane.

PARKING RESTRICTIONS

No person shall park a vehicle within 5 meters of a fire hydrant, measured from a point in the curb or edge of the roadway closest to the fire hydrant as stated in the Street and Traffic Bylaw.

i WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

OUTDOOR COOKING / HEATING

- Outdoor cooking appliances must be designed for cooking food and powered by electricity, or fueled by propane, natural gas or wood pellets.
- Outdoor heating appliances must be designed for heating and powered by electricity, or fueled by propane, natural gas.

CAMPFIRES

- Campfires fueled by wood are banned in all private properties in the City of Abbotsford.
- Campfire pits are approved for use at identified City Parks.

OPEN AIR BURNING

- Open air burning is permitted with a permit on rural properties meeting all distance requirements
- Open air burning is only permitted during the identified fall and spring seasons.
- Residents need to check before they burn for current regulations at www.abbotsford.ca/burning



NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Abbotsford Fire Rescue Service

T: 604-853-3566

W: www.abbotsford.ca/fire

Bylaw Listings: www.abbotsford.ca/laws



Fireworks

Consider your neighbours before illegally lighting up fireworks. In the City of Abbotsford, fireworks are not permitted except for at special events with a Fireworks Permit. Only licensed and trained pyrotechnicians can apply for a permit to hold a fireworks show. A Fireworks Permit is only approved under very strict conditions and at the discretion of the Fire Chief.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- The use of fireworks and firecrackers are illegal in the City of Abbotsford.
- **The Fireworks Bylaw** prohibits the sale, possession and discharge of fireworks within the City's borders. This bylaw was introduced in 2005 in order to reduce the number of injuries and fires caused by their use.
- The bylaw is enforced by Abbotsford Fire Rescue Service members as well as by Abbotsford Police and Bylaw Enforcement Officers. Residents caught with fireworks will be subject to fines ranging up to \$50,000 and their fireworks will be confiscated.
- Residents need to be aware that even though fireworks are offered for sale nearby, they must not be used in Abbotsford.
- For more information on obtaining a Fireworks Permit visit the website at www.abbotsford.ca/fire or call the Abbotsford Fire Rescue Service at 604-853-3566.

HOW TO REPORT:

1. To report the use or sale of fireworks: **604-864-5512**
2. Report online: www.abbotsford.ca/bylaw-service-request or through the **@abbotsford app**, available for free download.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Bylaw Services:

T: 604-864-5512

E: bylawservices@abbotsford.ca

Bylaw Listings: www.abbotsford.ca/laws

Abbotsford Fire Rescue Service

T: 604-853-3566

W: www.abbotsford.ca/fire



Home Occupation Businesses

Before setting up a home based business please check with Planning and Development Services at 604-864-5510 to ensure the City's Zoning Bylaw permits one in your zone.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

HOME OCCUPATION

A home occupation (home-based business) is one where a resident of Abbotsford carries on a business in their home. There are three levels to a home occupation depending on the zoning of the property. The following regulations apply to all levels:

- No offensive noise, vibration, traffic, smoke, dust, odours, heat, glare, electrical or radio disturbance shall be produced by the home occupation.
- No exterior alterations are permitted that are not consistent with the residential character of the buildings and property.
- Outside storage of materials, commodities, or finished products is not permitted.

For further information on the different levels of Home Occupations and the regulations that apply to the levels, please visit www.abbotsford.ca/business and select **Home Occupation Information**.



HOW TO APPLY:

1. Online at www.abbotsford.ca under "My City Online"
2. In person at City Hall, 32315 South Fraser Way, Abbotsford BC

HOW TO REPORT:

1. To report a home business occupation concern: **604-864-5512**
2. Report online: www.abbotsford.ca/bylaw-service-request or through the **@abbotsford app**, available for free download.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Business Licences

T: 604-864-5525

E: businesslicence@abbotsford.ca

W: www.abbotsford.ca/business

Bylaw Listings: www.abbotsford.ca/laws

Bylaw Services:

T: 604-864-5512

E: bylawservices@abbotsford.ca

Bylaw Listings: www.abbotsford.ca/laws



Hosting an Event

Events held in neighbourhoods, even if on your property, may require a Special Event Permit to ensure the event meets the necessary guidelines. The City of Abbotsford's Special Event Team can help with the safety and success of your outdoor public event. Prior to an event being permitted, the Special Events Team reviews the event application in detail to ensure it meets our special event requirements and follows City bylaws before granting approval.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Check if your event requires a **Special Event Permit**. Your event requires a Special Event Permit if it falls under the Outdoor Special Event, Filming and Activities Bylaw. It will require a permit if it is:
 - Open to the public or is an event to which the public has been invited to attend.
 - Held outdoors either in whole or in part.
 - Likely to be attended, or which may reasonably be expected to be attended by 200 or more people.
 - Includes a beverage garden.
- Submit an online application at www.abbotsford.ca/specialevents
 - Applications should be submitted at least 90 days prior to your event.
 - This allows enough time to receive approval for any applicable permits, at get application feedback from the Special Events Team.

The Special Events Team will provide you with feedback and/or conditional approval regarding your application.

- The Special Events Team will be your contact throughout the event planning process and may ask you to provide proof of insurance coverage, additional permits, contracts and licensing and a site map of the event.

HOW TO REPORT:

1. To report concerns about a special event, please call: **604-864-5512**
2. Report online: www.abbotsford.ca/bylaw-service-request or through the **@abbotsford app**, available for free download.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Economic Development

T: 604-864-5586

E: econdev@abbotsford.ca

Bylaw Listings: www.abbotsford.ca/laws



Invasive Species

Invasive Species are non-native plants that were introduced without their natural insect predators and plant pathogens that help keep them under control in their native habitats. These plants threaten Abbotsford’s natural environment and economy.

Some invasive plants have been designated as a noxious weed under the **BC Weed Control Act**. The City is asking for the community’s help to identify noxious weeds in Abbotsford and work towards their containment and potentially their elimination.

i WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Negative effects of invasive plants:

- Push out native plants, including endangered species, and destroy habitat for fish, birds and other wildlife.
- Cause erosion and silt problems in creeks and impact aquatic creatures.
- Are expensive to control and eradicate.
- Spread aggressively and take over the natural environment.
- Some, like Giant Hogweed, are dangerous to human health.



📄 HOW TO REPORT:

1. To report invasive plants in Abbotsford: **604-864-5512**
2. Report online: **www.abbotsford.ca/community-events/environment/invasive-plants** or through the **@abbotsord app**, available for free download.

🗣️ NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Environmental Services

T: 604-864-5510

E: env-info@abbotsford.ca

W: www.abbotsford.ca/community-events/environment/invasive-plants

Bylaw Listings: www.abbotsford.ca/laws



Light Pollution

If your house lights, yard lights, or security lights shine into your neighbour's line of vision, this can ruin their enjoyment of their property.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- In many cases, property owners with nuisance lights will be happy to fix the problem with the installation of shields or dimmers.
- Your neighbors probably don't even realize their lighting is bothering you. Give them the opportunity to fix the problem.
- Suggest alternatives to their current fixture. Ask them to move the light, shield it, or add a motion sensor so it's activated only when needed.

HOW TO REPORT:

1. To report a light concern: **604-864-5512**
2. Report online: **www.abbotsford.ca/bylaw-service-request** or through the **@abbotsford app**, available for free download.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Bylaw Services

T: 604-864-5512

E: bylawservices@abbotsford.ca

Bylaw Listings: www.abbotsford.ca/laws



Managing Wildlife

The City discourages any person from keeping attractants on their premises that are accessible to wildlife. Collaborate with your neighbours so that your immediate neighbourhood follows preventative measures to reduce human-wildlife conflicts. To discourage wildlife from scavenging while you sleep, put your garbage out in a closed container in the morning of your collection day.

HOW TO REPORT:

Dangerous wildlife sightings and encounters should be reported to the BC Conservation Officer Service, toll-free at 1-877-952-7277.

- The Wild Safe BC website www.wildsafebc.com provides tips for reducing wildlife conflicts for numerous animals including bears, cougars, coyotes, deers, and raccoons, as well as providing wildlife reports on the Wildlife Alert Reporting Program (W.A.R.P.) website at www.wildsafebc.com/warp.
- The Wildlife Rehabilitators Network of British Columbia's website www.wrncb.org/contact/find-a-local-rehabilitator provides tips on how to deal with wild animals and listing of rehabilitators in British Columbia.
- The BC SPCA Provincial Call Centre at 1-855-522-7722 (1-855-6-BC-SPCA) or the Abbotsford Police Department at 604-859-5225 can be contacted to report animals in distress and requiring assistance.



NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Bylaw Services
 T: 604-864-5512
 E: bylawservices@abbotsford.ca
Bylaw Listings: www.abbotsford.ca/laws



Noise

Noise is described as unwanted sound. Excessive audible noise such as shouting, amplified devices, TVs, radios, and musical instruments can disturb your neighbours. Noise, sounds or vibrations from construction sites is considered construction noise.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Construction noise is not permitted before 7:00am or after 9:00pm Monday to Friday and before 9:00am or after 9:00pm on Sunday or any statutory Holiday.
- Quiet time in residential neighbourhoods is between the hours of 10:00pm and 7:00am the following day. Consider the impact of your noise on neighbours – we all want to enjoy our backyards but can do so without disturbing our neighbours.
- Noise that occurs within a strata unit or rental unit should be reported to the strata council or property management company for enforcement.
- For exemptions and detailed information, please refer to the **Sound Regulation Bylaw**.

HOW TO REPORT:

1. To report a noise concern during the day: **604-864-5512**
2. To report a noise concern from 7pm-7am (AbbyPD non-emergency line): **604-859-5225** or text to **222973**
3. Report online: **www.abbotsford.ca/bylaw-service-request** or through the **@abbotsford app**, available for free download.
4. Excessive Noise from Engine Brakes can also be reported to Commercial Vehicle Safety Enforcement: **604-575-3430**

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Bylaw Services

T: 604-864-5512

E: bylawservices@abbotsford.ca

Bylaw Listings: www.abbotsford.ca/laws

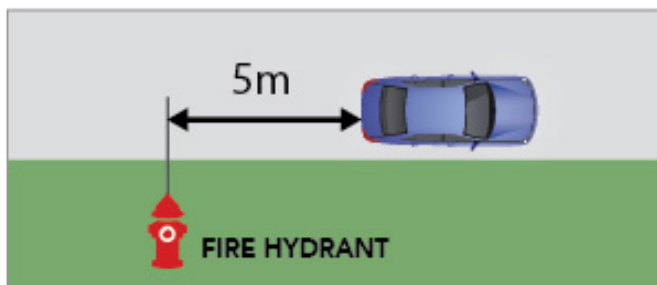
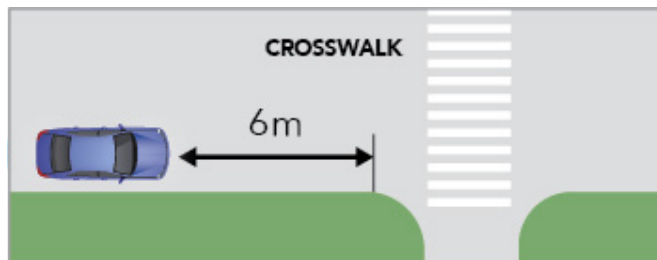
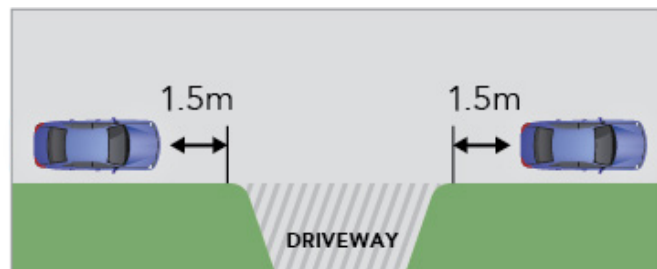


Parking

Be a considerate neighbour – don't park too close to someone's driveway as this impacts visibility when reversing out of the space.

i WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Parking is not permitted in lane ways within 1.5 metres of a driveway, five metres of a fire hydrant, fifteen meters from a railway crossing and six metres of a crosswalk and stop sign.
- **Note:** These measurements are minimums that may be further expanded with additional parking restriction signage.



- Do not park in any way that blocks a sidewalk, even if the vehicle is parked in a driveway.
- Where parking is prohibited, "stopping", even temporarily, has the same meaning as being parked.
- Parking is not permitted on a boulevard. Any vehicles parked off-street must be within the legal boundaries of the driveway access or entirely within the property boundary accessible via the driveway.



- Vehicles parked on a roadway must have and display current licence plates and valid insurance.
- Trailers parked on roadway must be attached to a vehicle and parked for no longer than 36 hours in front of the owner's residence.
- Commercial vehicles, any vehicle with a licensed gross vehicle weight of 5600 KG or greater and a height over 2.25 metres or as defined in the Commercial Transportation Act, are not permitted to be parked in residential driveways.
- Commercial vehicles are not permitted to park on a roadway; they must be stored or parked at designated commercial parking lots.
- Vehicles are not permitted to park in the middle of cul-de-sacs. Parking in the middle of the cul-de-sac impacts neighbours reversing out and impacts garbage collection. Vehicles may have to be parked further away and walk to destination.
- Vehicles in cul-de-sacs must park parallel to the roadway. "Nose-in" or angle parking is not permitted. Vehicles in cul-de-sacs that park at an angle reduce the turnaround area available for vehicles. Emergency vehicles and garbage trucks may not be able to access houses in cul-de-sacs if vehicles are parked at an angle, as they require a much larger turn radius than most passenger vehicles. Vehicles must also be parked a minimum of 1.5 metres away from a driveway. As a result, many cul-de-sacs are not designed to allow street parking
- Parking must be parallel to the curb/pavement edge, unless otherwise signed.
- Parking in private parking lots such as condos, apartments, townhouses, or commercial units is managed by the strata or property management company. Please report infractions to the strata council.
- The City's Zoning Bylaw prohibits the parking and storage of commercial vehicles that are unrelated to the farm operation on an agricultural zoned property, except that a maximum of 2 commercial vehicles may be parked on the property subject to conditions. Conditions include a requirement that the registered owner of a least one of the commercial vehicles is a resident of the lot.



Please let your neighbours know if you are having guests over who will temporarily park on the roadway in front of their homes.

HOW TO REPORT:

1. To report a parking concern during the day: **604-864-5512**
2. To report a parking concern from 7pm-7am (AbbyPD non-emergency line): **604-859-5225** or text to **222973**
3. Report online: www.abbotsford.ca/bylaw-service-request or through the **@abbotsford app**, available for free download.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Bylaw Services

T: 604-864-5512

E: bylawservices@abbotsford.ca

Bylaw Listings: www.abbotsford.ca/laws



Property Maintenance

Unsightly premises and snow clearing are regulated under the City's Good Neighbour Bylaw.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Prevent landscaping and trees on your property from encroaching over sidewalks or paved roadways.
- Boulevard maintenance - residents are responsible for the boulevards fronting their properties. Keep boulevards trimmed and free of weeds.
- Trim all landscaping so driveway and intersection sight lines are not obstructed.
- Trees and shrubs should not be planted within the road right-of-way. Private property does not extend all the way out to the road in most locations. Be familiar with where your property ends and keep all landscaping within property boundaries.
- Do not keep derelict or inoperative, or unused vehicles, boats, or household appliances on the property.
- Keep garbage in secure containers and do not allow to accumulate. Garbage is unsightly for everyone to see.
- Snow removal - residents are responsible for clearing their own driveways and public sidewalks in front of their properties. Please do not plow snow from private properties onto the public roadways. Put shoveled snow onto your yard. Extra snow on the roads and sidewalks is hazardous for pedestrians and vehicles.

HOW TO REPORT:

1. Report online: www.abbotsford.ca/bylaw-service-request or through the [@abbotsford app](#), available for free download.
2. To report unsightly premises call: **604-864-5512**

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Bylaw Services

T: 604-864-5512

E: bylawservices@abbotsford.ca

Bylaw Listings: www.abbotsford.ca/laws



Riparian Areas

Riparian areas are the lands adjacent to watercourses and are managed under the Streamside Protection Bylaw. Property owners may be subject to fines if work is conducted in riparian areas that have negative impacts to the natural environment.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The **Streamside Protection Bylaw** establishes Streamside Protection and Enhancement Areas (SPEAs). The SPEA is critical for healthy streams and for protecting adjacent lands. It provides the following benefits:

- Stabilizes the stream bank and protects water quality
- Supports the aquatic food web
- Improves fish habitat quality
- Shades the stream
- Provides wildlife habitat

Removing vegetation, disturbing soils, planting ornamental vegetation, building structures, disposing of yard waste, placing recreational/play structures within a SPEA is prohibited. For a full list of what you can and cannot do within the SPEA, please refer to the **Residents Guide for Living Near Streams and Ravines** found online at www.abbotsford.ca.

HOW TO REPORT:

1. To report misuse of streamside areas: **604-864-5512**
2. Report online: www.abbotsford.ca/bylaw-service-request or through the **@abbotsford app**, available for free download.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Environmental Services
T: 604-864-5514
E: eng-info@abbotsford.ca

Planning Services
T: 604-864-5510

W: www.abbotsford.ca/city-services/dyking-drainage
Bylaw Listings: www.abbotsford.ca/laws



Secondary Suites

A secondary suite is defined as a second, self contained dwelling unit with private access, its own kitchen and bathroom, and located within a single-unit dwelling, within a detached accessory building or as permitted.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

All secondary suites must be registered with the city. A secondary unit exists where there is an area that is independant and separate from the principal dwelling with a kitchen that includes a cooking device. Registration confirms that suites comply with the BC Building Code and Abbotsford Zoning Bylaw.

HOW TO REPORT:

1. To report an unregistered secondary suite: **604-864-5512**
2. Report online: **www.abbotsford.ca/bylaw-service-request** or through the **@abbotsford app**, available for free download.



NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Building Permit
T: 604-864-5525
W: www.abbotsford.ca/secondariesuites
Bylaw Listings: www.abbotsford.ca/laws

Planning Services
T: 604-864-5510
W: www.abbotsford.ca/secondariesuites
Bylaw Listings: www.abbotsford.ca/laws



Trees

The Tree Protection Bylaw is in place to preserve the tree canopy in Abbotsford. Trees are important in our community to help us sustain a healthy, natural environment.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

If you are removing trees, you may require a **Tree Permit**. If you have comments or concerns regarding trees on boulevards or in parks, contact Parks, Recreation & Culture. Before cutting down any trees on your property, it is important to contact the Urban Forestry Section to ensure that you are in compliance with the **Tree Protection Bylaw**.

Tree Permits are Required When:

- Removal of any tree, on all properties in Abbotsford, with the exception of ALR land (Agricultural Land Reserve).
- Topping a tree.

Permits are valid one year from the date of issue.

Tree Permits are NOT Required When:

- Removing a dead or hazardous tree. In the case of an emergency tree removal, the City may require that you leave the removed tree on the ground, to provide an arborist report or photo for verification prior to cleanup. Written notification to the City is required showing how the tree was a hazard or was damaged and how it posed an imminent danger to persons or property.
- If the tree is within a streamside protection and enhancement area, it must be assessed by a qualified professional, reported to the City, and replaced with appropriate native species as per the Ministry of Environment planting and replacement criteria.
- Pruning or trimming a tree. Pruning must be in accordance with the ISA standard arboricultural practices.
- Cutting down trees on ALR land (Agricultural Land Reserve).

Additionally under the bylaw, the City requires that replacement trees be planted for every tree that is cut down.

HOW TO REPORT:

1. To report parks or boulevard trees in need of care: www.abbotsford.ca/service
2. To complete a Tree Permit Application: www.abbotsford.ca/trees
3. Report online: www.abbotsford.ca/bylaw-service-request or through the [@abbotsford app](#), available for free download.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Parks, Recreation & Culture
T: 604-859-3134
E: prcoffice@abbotsford.ca
W: www.abbotsford.ca/trees

Bylaw Services
T: 604-864-5512
E: bylawservices@abbotsford.ca
Bylaw Listings: www.abbotsford.ca/laws



Traffic Calming

The City of Abbotsford recognizes that traffic has a big impact on the sustainability and livability of a neighbourhood. The City uses a collaborative approach to reduce the number and severity of road-related collisions.

The City works together with other agencies to create a safer environment for all road users including motorists, cyclists, pedestrians and users of other mobility devices. Engineering uses proven road safety measures to address issues related to the infrastructure and flow of traffic on roadways. This includes the installation and maintenance of sidewalks, traffic lights, signage, traffic calming measures and crosswalks.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

All traffic calming requests begin with the requester gathering neighbourhood support. Before the City will consider traffic calming, we require a petition signed by one-third (33%) or 10 houses — whichever is less — of all the fronting homeowners on the block. Once the petition has been received, the City will schedule a traffic study for the road.

For traffic calming to be warranted in a neighbourhood:

- The road must have a minimum of 500 vehicles per day and at least 15% of those drivers must be travelling at or over 5km/h over the posted speed limit.
- If these two requirements are met on the road, the City will design a traffic calming plan and send out a survey to all affected homeowners.

For traffic calming to be installed in a neighbourhood:

- At least 50% of affected households must respond to the survey, and of that, at least 67% must approve of the plan.
- As there is limited funding for the traffic calming program, roads will be prioritized and selected based on a selection matrix.
- Even if traffic calming is not warranted for the street, the City works collaboratively with ICBC and the Abbotsford Police Department to educate drivers about their bad behaviour and to enforce against dangerous driving and speeding.

HOW TO REPORT:

1. To report a traffic calming request, after the neighbourhood petition is signed: **604-864-5514**
2. To report speeding and traffic safety concerns: **604-859-5225 AbbyPD non-emergency line**, text to **222973** or online at **www.abbypd.ca**
3. Report online: **www.abbotsford.ca/bylaw-service-request** or through the **@abbotsford app**, available for free download.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Engineering & Regional Utilities

T: 604-864-5514

E: eng-info@abbotsford.ca



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Phone: 604-853-2281 | www.abbotsford.ca
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