



Public Works Department City of Bellingham

The permit types that are offered exclusively through Public Works are:

- 1) Public Works permits
- 2) Stormwater permits
- 3) Special Event Permits

If the project **only** involves land-disturbing activity, or hard surface addition or replacement, as defined by [Bellingham Municipal Code 15.42](#), and does not impact the public right-of-way or any utilities, then a Stormwater permit is needed.

If the activity is a Special Event, as defined by [BMC 13.13](#), please see our [Special Event page](#) for more information about permitting and documentation requirements. Special Events include things like block parties, parades, festivals, concerts, and other temporary uses of the ROW for functions and gatherings.

Most other activity types require a Public Works permit to be approved and issued prior to commencement of work.

Some of the common activity types that require a Public Works permit:

- Any work involving a new water/sewer/storm connection
- Any work that replaces, modifies, repairs, or alters a water/sewer/storm connection
- Right-of-way use, including commercial- and construction-related (PW permit also required for parking meter hood rental)
- Sidewalk cafes, food trucks, and parklets
- Driveway repair/replacement if a portion of the driveway within the ROW is included
- Addition of other hard surface or improvements in the ROW
- Fences, walls, and hedges, as defined by our FWH Guide, that will be located in the ROW

For additional questions about permit requirements, please contact the Permit Center at (360)778-8300, or for questions about Public Works permitting, please contact pwpermits@cob.org

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