



# Recreational Vehicles

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Recreational vehicles are intended for just that—recreation—and can cause special problems or hazards when used contrary to their intended purpose. Skagit County has adopted rules to protect neighborhoods and property owners from unintended RV use.

## What is a recreational vehicle?

“Recreational vehicle” means a park model trailer or a vehicle that is:

- (1) built on a single chassis;
- (2) four hundred square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projection;
- (3) designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a light-duty truck; and
- (4) designed not for use as a permanent dwelling but as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use.<sup>1</sup>

An RV is not the same as a manufactured home; it is built to different standards and labeled accordingly. While Skagit County allows temporary placement of a manufactured home to accommodate certain special needs, an RV cannot be used for that purpose.<sup>2</sup>

## Living in RVs

Recreational vehicles are not designed for use as permanent dwelling units. Skagit County does not permit using an RV as a dwelling unit or accessory dwelling unit.<sup>3</sup>

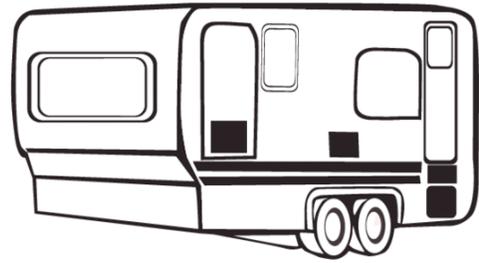
Temporarily occupying an RV is allowed, but:

- no RV may be occupied for more than 180 days in any 12-month period;<sup>4</sup> AND
- only one occupied RV may be present on any lot.

## Keeping RVs on your property

Except in the flood hazard areas, you may keep no more than two recreational vehicles on any lot at one time.<sup>5</sup> As described above, only one may be occupied, and then only for a limited time.

Any RV that is inoperative or unlicensed is considered junk.<sup>6</sup> Outdoor storage of more than 500 square feet of junk is prohibited.<sup>7</sup>



## Additional rules for RVs in the floodplain

RVs in the **special flood hazard areas** A, A1, A10, A12, A15, A16, A18, A21-22, V1, V4, AO, and AH must:

- be on site for fewer than 180 consecutive days; **or**
- be fully licensed and ready for highway use without the requirement for special highway permits,
- be on its wheels or jacking system,
- be attached to the site only by quick disconnect type utilities and security devices, and
- have no permanently attached additions.<sup>8</sup>

RVs in the **floodway** must:

- be fully licensed and ready for highway use without the requirement for special highway permits;
- be towable by a regular duty truck without the requirement for special licenses;
- be on its wheels or jacking system; **and**
- have no permanently attached additions.<sup>9</sup>

RVs **are prohibited in the floodway** from November through April (except for a weekend or holiday use of a period not to exceed 14 days).<sup>10</sup>

## Do I need a permit?

As long as you use your RV consistent with its purpose and this handout, you don't need a county permit for it.

<sup>1</sup> SCC 14.04.020, definition of “recreational vehicle.”

<sup>2</sup> SCC 14.04.020, definition of “temporary manufactured home,” and SCC 14.16.900(2).

<sup>3</sup> SCC 14.16.945(3)(a) and SCC 14.04.020, definition of “accessory dwelling unit.”

<sup>4</sup> SCC 14.16.945(3)(b).

<sup>5</sup> SCC 14.16.945(3)(d).

<sup>6</sup> SCC 14.04.020, definition of “junk.”

<sup>7</sup> SCC 14.16.945(2).

<sup>8</sup> SCC 14.34.150(7)(b).

<sup>9</sup> SCC 14.34.190(4)(a).

<sup>10</sup> SCC 14.34.190(4)(b).