



BUILDING BULLETIN

SOLAR PANELS

Jan 7, 2025

Bulletin No 26-01

Solar Panels on your home – When is a permit required?

Requirements and procedures to help you decide if a permit is necessary for the installation of Solar Panels on your home.

PURPOSE

To provide guidance to contractors and the public on the requirements needed before the addition of solar panels.

REFERENCE

Building Bylaw 2022-002 PART 14 BUILDING PERMITS and the BC BUILDING CODE.

ELECTRICAL REQUIREMENTS

A Distributed Generation Application Form and Electrical Service Request need to be submitted to the Public Works Department.

More information can be found on the District of Summerland Website under:

City Services – Utilities – Electrical – [Distributed Generation](#)

BUILDING PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

The District of Summerland does not necessarily require a building permit to install solar panels, but, if the owner or installer believes structural upgrades will be required to support the extra load of the panels, then a building permit is required for those structural upgrades.

Zoning requirements for the installation of Solar Panels apply in all cases. Please consult the District of Summerland [Zoning Bylaw](#) to ensure they are allowed.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

If a permit is required because of structural upgrades, it must be applied for before the work starts.



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An application for a building permit with respect to a structural upgrade must:

- a) *be filled out on the prescribed form (either in person or on the Summerland website [Online Application Portal](#)) and signed by the owner or an authorized representative of the owner or company;*
- b) *include the applicable fees as prescribed in the District of [Summerland Fees and Charges Bylaw](#);*
- c) *provide a site plan showing dimensioned placement of all buildings and structures on the property. (existing and planned)*
- d) *include an Engineered drawing showing the required upgrades and construction to be used.*

This bulletin is for informational purposes only. Please be sure to consult the District of Summerland [Building and Zoning Bylaws](#) and Part 9 of the BC Building Code 2024.