

# Beekeeping enclosure requirements

- Provide a safe, sturdy enclosure that has good air flow and making sure to provide a water source. Contact your local beekeeping association if you need support in building a bee enclosure.
- Beehives should be a **minimum of 15 feet away from neighbors.**
- Structures and enclosure must be **at least 3' from property lines and 10' from the front property line.**
- Beehives should be placed in areas where they are secure from trespassers, such as curious neighbors or children.
- A 6-foot high barrier is needed if beehives are less than 10 feet from residences, sidewalks, streets, public buildings and public areas.
- Barrier must extend 10 feet in each direction beyond the apiary so bees are forced to fly at an elevation of at least 6 feet OR the hive is 10ft above ground level.

# Contact information

If you live outside of Portland and want to keep bees, contact your local city government. Local rules and regulations concerning beekeeping may apply.

## City of Fairview

Main Office  
(503) 665-7929

## City of Gresham

Main Office  
(503) 618-3000

## City of Wood Village

City Hall  
(503) 667-6211

## City of Troutdale

Main Office  
(503) 665-5175

## City of Maywood Park

Main Office  
255-9805

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Please call **(503) 988-3464**, scan the code, or visit our website **[multco.us/health/animal-codes](http://multco.us/health/animal-codes)** for more information.



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**Multnomah County Vector Control & Code Enforcement**  
5235 N Columbia Blvd • Portland, OR 97203

Multnomah County Vector Control  
& Code Enforcement

# Beekeeping in the City of Portland



# Keeping bees

To keep bees in the City of Portland, you need to follow City of Portland Code Title 13: [portlandoregon.gov/citycode/](http://portlandoregon.gov/citycode/)

- » If a person owns or keeps 5 or more beehives, they need to be registered with the state. [oregon.gov/oda/programs/IPPM/InsectsSpiders/Pages/BeesApiaries.aspx](http://oregon.gov/oda/programs/IPPM/InsectsSpiders/Pages/BeesApiaries.aspx)



Multnomah County Code Enforcement makes sure beekeeping is done in a way that keeps Portland communities and bees safe.

- » If you plan to keep bees, you must notify your neighbors within 150 feet of the beehive site.

# Frequently asked questions

## How many bees can I have on my lot?

Four beehives are allowed on any lot, or six beehives for lots 10,000 square feet or greater.

## Are there any exceptions to the beekeeping regulations?

There are no limits for agricultural uses under Title 33 or for those with a conditional use permit via City Zoning.

## Why do I need written permission from my neighbors to keep bees?

It is important that all neighbors are aware of the hive on your property, as some people are allergic to bees.

## Do I need to register my beehives?

Yes, beekeepers with 5 or more hives are required to register with the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA).

## Can I put a beehive on my property less than 15 feet away from my neighbor's house?

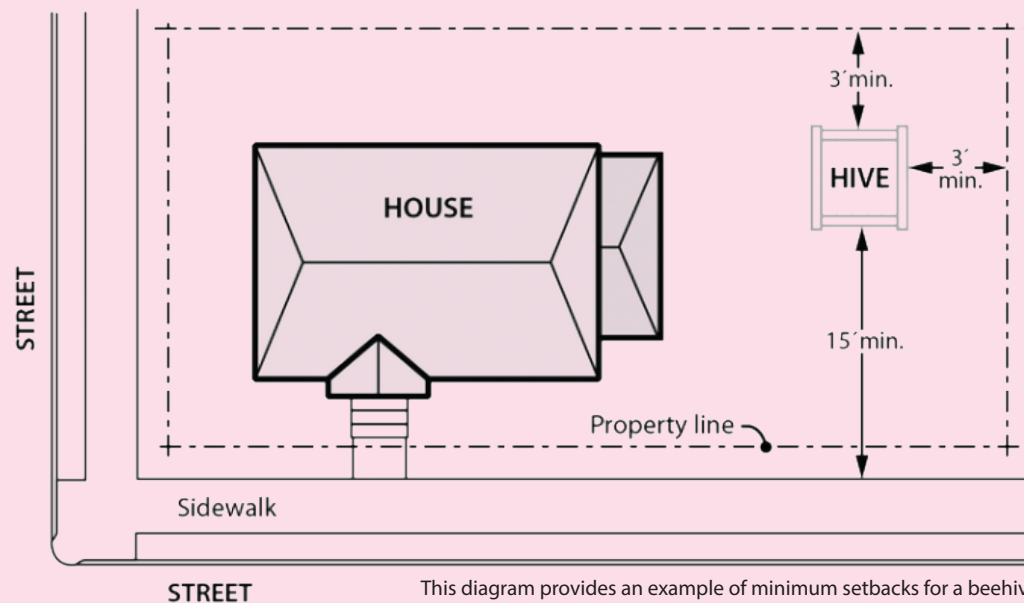
No, a beehive needs to be 15 feet away from a public walkways, streets, and other public areas and at least 3 feet from all property lines.

## What do I do if I am concerned about the health of my beehive, or if I have other questions concerning beekeeping?

Contact your local beekeeping association. They can be a great resource! You can connect with Portland Urban Beekeepers at [portlandurbanbeekeepers.org](http://portlandurbanbeekeepers.org).

## How do I make a complaint about a beehive in my neighborhood?

Please call Multnomah County Code Enforcement at (503) 988-3464 or email [vector.nuisance@multco.us](mailto:vector.nuisance@multco.us)



This diagram provides an example of minimum setbacks for a beehive. Individual cases will vary. Please contact us with any questions or concerns.