



RESIDENTIAL BEEKEEPING INFORMATION SHEET

According to Section 2-39-2 of the Irvine Zoning Ordinance (ZO), a Residential Beekeeping Permit is required for all residential beehives and where the Zoning Ordinance identifies "Residential Beekeeping (Accessory Use)" as permitted.

Please use this information sheet as a checklist to prepare your submittal for a Residential Beekeeping Permit. This information sheet is intended as a guide to Zoning Ordinance Chapter 2-39, Residential Beekeeping Permit, and Chapter 3-41, Residential Beekeeping. If you have questions, please visit or call the Development Assistance Center at 949-724-6308 for assistance.

GENERAL INFORMATION

RESIDENTIAL BEEKEEPING

Zoning Ordinance Chapter 3-41, Section 3-41-2, defines Residential Beekeeping as follows:

The raising, breeding, and maintenance of domestic honey bees (*apis mellifera* species) as an accessory use in residential zones.

CITY REGULATIONS

The intent of the City's Residential Beekeeping Ordinance is to ensure residential beehives do not negatively impact the character and the public health and safety of residential neighborhoods.

Residential Beekeeping shall only be allowed as an accessory use to single-family detached homes and single-family attached homes with single property ownership (homes on a condominium lot with multiple property ownership are prohibited) in the following zoning districts:

- 2.1 Estate Density Residential
- 2.2 Low Density Residential
- 2.3 Medium Density Residential
- 2.4 Medium High Density Residential
- 2.5 High Density Residential
- 3.1 Multi-Use
- 8.1 Trails and Transit Oriented Development

Refer to Zoning Ordinance Chapter 2-39 and Chapter 3-41 for complete Residential Beekeeping requirements. Below is a summary of the key requirements:

Allowable bee species: *Apis mellifera* (Western honey bee)

Minimum lot size: 2,400 square feet total

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Maximum number of beehives: Two

Beehive setback: Refer to the building setback standards of the subject site's zoning designation.

Residential Beekeeping Best Management Practices (BMP) Manual:

The BMP provides guidance, to both new and experienced beekeepers, and information to safeguard the public in close proximity to a residential beehive(s). All beekeepers are required to follow the City's BMP Manual.

APPROVALS NEEDED

Residential Beekeeping shall be reviewed and subject to the approval of a Residential Beekeeping Permit submitted by the property owner-applicant. This means the application is approved by staff and no public hearing is required.

For more information on the permit application process, please visit the Planning and Zoning Counter of the Community Development Department or call 949-724-6308.

PERMIT FEE

Initial application fee: \$304.48

Renewal Fee: \$73.04

SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Residential Beekeeping Permit Application
2. Required Property Owner Acknowledgment Form
3. Proof of notification to adjacent property owners regarding the submittal of a Residential Beekeeping Permit. Proof of Notification shall include the following information:
 - Copies of notification letter
 - Neighbor's signature acknowledging receipt of letter
 - Contact information (name, email address, and phone number)
 - Property address
4. Homeowners Association acknowledgment and authorization, if applicable.
5. Certification of Completion of beekeeping course, such as the UC Davis California Master Beekeeping Program (Apprentice Assistant Level Course) or classes from the Orange County Beekeepers Association. Not required for permit renewals.
6. Registration with the County of Orange Agricultural Commissioner. NOTE: The property owner shall provide proof of registration prior to receiving final approval of a Residential Beekeeping Permit.

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SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS (CONTINUED)

7. Site Plan

- Provide a site plan (see Residential Beekeeping Plan- City Form 41-10) labeling the location of all the existing structures and proposed beehive(s) on the lot.
- Show minimum setbacks of the proposed beehive from all property lines and adjacent streets.
- Depict and label property lines, exterior walls/fences, and all easements of record
- Add a note if no easements exist on the property.
- Label surrounding land uses
- Location of beehive signage

Exhibits:

- Photo and/or specifications of the beehive(s)