

Richmond Short Term Rentals

July 2017



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can I have a B&B and boarders and lodgers?

No, you cannot have both a B&B and boarders and lodgers. You can also not have a B&B if you have a secondary suite, granny flat or coach house.

Under the new rules, who in my family can run a B&B in a house that I own?

Under the new regulations, B&B's can be operated only by the property owner, or the owner's parents or spouse. In addition, the operator must reside in the home.

Can I rent out my condo or townhouse?

You cannot host B&Bs in a condo or townhouse, and you are not permitted to rent out your entire dwelling for less than 30 days. However, rentals of your dwelling for more than 30 days is allowed, and you are allowed to host up to two boarders/lodgers as a short term rental.

Can I rent out my house when I am not there?

Rentals of an entire dwelling unit for less than 30 days are not allowed. Rentals of your entire dwelling for more than 30 days are allowed.

How do I know if I need a B&B business licence?

All short term rentals (less than 30 days) that involve hosting more than two people at a time in the home must have a B&B business licence and meet all related regulations.

How much does a B&B business licence cost?

The rate for a 2017 B&B business licence is \$162. The licence must be renewed annually, and the cost may vary each year.

Do existing B&Bs have to qualify under the new rules?

You must have a B&B business licence, and if you maintain your licence in good standing, your business will be grandfathered under the existing rules.

Can I have boarders and lodgers in my primary residence if I have a secondary suite in my home?

No, boarders and lodgers are only permitted when there is no other rental activity in the home.

What is the City doing to shut down illegal hotels?

The City of Richmond has added bylaw enforcement officers to focus primarily on investigating, ticketing and shutting down illegal operations. To report a complaint, email bylawrequest@richmond.ca or call 604-276-4345.

If I report a B&B operation that doesn't have a licence, does my contact information remain confidential?

Yes, all information is kept confidential.

What if my current B&B is closer than 500 metres to another existing B&B?

As long as you maintain your B&B business licence in good standing, your business will be grandfathered under the existing rules and only new B&B's will be required to be at least 500 metres from existing B&B operations.

How long can I continue to operate my B&B if I don't have a licence?

You must not operate a business in Richmond, at any time, without a business licence. If you are offering short term rentals in your home, you must qualify and be licenced as a B&B or be renting to no more than two boarders and lodgers.

How do I find out if a B&B is licenced?

All legal B&B's will have a business licence and should be able to provide a copy of their licence. Otherwise, each operator in the City of Richmond may only rent, on a short term basis, to a maximum of two boarders and lodgers.