



PRESS RELEASE

July 8, 2026

Lewis County Requires Short Term Rentals to be Permitted

In 2025, the Board of County Commissioners adopted Chapter 17.105 of the Lewis County Code, which established requirements for STRs. **Starting on January 1, 2026 all STR owners or operators in Lewis County are required to register their STRs** through the Lewis County SmartGov online portal <https://lewiscountywa.gov/departments/community-development/>. Owners/operators will have until December 31, 2026 to register, after which they may be subject to enforcement.

The requirements for STRs are summarized below (*this is not an exhaustive list*):

1. A STR can be a single family residence, accessory dwelling unit (ADU), duplex, detached bedroom, RV/trailer, yurt or other similar structure. In most cases no more than two (2) STRs are allowed per parcel.
2. For residential structures built after 1974, the STR must have a building permit on record with Lewis County or a certificate of occupancy. For residential structures built before 1974, a life/safety inspection may be used in place of a building permit.
3. RV/trailers used as STRs must be placed as a residences and have a building permit.
4. The occupancy limit for each STR is two (2) people per bedroom, plus three (3) additional people. The maximum occupancy for a 3-bedroom STR is 9 people.
5. Each STR is required to have an approved water source.
6. Each STR is required to have approved sewage treatment.
7. Each STR is also required to have one (1) on-site parking spot per bedroom, garbage service or secure garbage receptacle, and to provide up-to-date burn restriction information to guests.

Additional information is available online at

<https://lewiscountywa.gov/departments/community-development/short-term-rentals/>.

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