

# Exemption or Variance Request for Transient Accommodations



This guidance is intended to help you request an exemption or variance as specified in **WAC 246-360-500**, (<https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=246-360-500>). A variance or exemption request is required for any modifications or waivers from the Transient Accommodations WACs. Each facility has its own unique conditions, and requests will be weighed against the proposed methods used to ensure public safety.

## Requirements for an Exemption or Variance Request

1. The specific section number or numbers of the rule for which you are requesting exemption/variance.
2. An explanation of the circumstances that you are unable to meet the requirements.
3. A proposed alternative that will still ensure public safety within the intent of the rule.
4. Any supporting documentation or research.
5. The time period for which your exemption or variance will stand.

A request that is submitted to the Department of Health that lacks the information above will not be approved. Photos, documents, or research supporting the proposed alternative will help the us verify that a health and safety hazard or nuisance will not result from the variance. Exemptions have been requested for facilities with specific issues such as:

- Historic buildings not able to meet current building codes.
- Food service issues not related to a county Food Service Permit.
- Use of in-room dish machines with a sanitizing feature.

## Submitting a Request

Requests should be emailed to [Housing@DOH.WA.GOV](mailto:Housing@DOH.WA.GOV) or faxed to 360-236-2257.

Requests will be answered in writing from the Department of Health. If you have not received a decision in writing after 14 days, contact your inspector for a status update.

## Record Keeping

Keep all your requests and decisions from the Department of Health in the facility's files onsite for future reference.

## Questions

If you have questions, call or email your regional inspector, or contact our office at 360-236-3393.

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email [civil.rights@doh.wa.gov](mailto:civil.rights@doh.wa.gov).