

9.9 Guidelines for Single-unit Infill Housing

9.9.1 Definition

Single-unit infill housing is development that provides for new single-unit homes on land that is surplus to the needs of existing housing. This could be in the form of separate dwellings on one lot (strata-titled or otherwise), or dwellings on separate small lots created through subdivision of larger lots.

9.9.2 Purpose

The purpose of these guidelines is provide guidance for proponents, the public, municipal staff, Advisory Committees and Council for the evaluation of applications for rezoning to permit the construction of single-unit Infill Housing.

9.9.3 Guidelines

9.9.3.1 Preferred Locations/Site Characteristics

The following characteristics define the general suitability of a property for Single-unit Infill Housing:

- a) Lots currently zoned RD-1 (Two-unit Residential) and RD-3 (Two-unit / Single-unit Residential), especially those with extra width and lot area;
- b) Lots with a frontage on more than one street (including corner lots);
- c) Properties that are transitional between lower density and higher density housing or other land uses;
- d) The demolition of existing housing is discouraged (unless in exceptional circumstances) however moving of houses is considered acceptable; and
- e) These criteria are general in nature. Each project will be considered on its own merit.

9.9.4 Design

9.9.4.1 Context

- a) Where an existing single-unit residence is to be retained and a second residence placed on the parcel, the existing dwelling is to be upgraded and made to blend with the new construction.
- b) Where two or more new separate dwellings are situated within a comprehensive development zone, the buildings shall be designed as part of a comprehensive scheme with all buildings being finished in complementary materials and incorporating similar architectural details.
- c) Where new infill single houses are proposed, the design of the new houses should be complementary in scale, size, exterior finishes, rooflines, and colours to the predominant styles of housing in the neighbourhood. It is important to ensure that the new construction fits with the overall scale and character of existing houses.
- d) The intent of this guideline is not to encourage the replication or imitation of surrounding buildings but rather the design of structures that complement the streetscape.

9.9.4.2 Massing

- e) New structures should be designed so that the overall massing is in keeping with other single-unit residences in the immediate area. New structures for lots other than corner or double frontage lots should be limited to one and one half storeys.
- f) New structures, which are two storeys in height, should be designed so that the second storey is partially concealed within the slope of the roof to minimize the height of the building. The use of dormers set into the roof is preferred to a flat roof or a peaked roof set over the second storey.

9.9.4.3 Privacy/Screening/Shadowing

- g) Proposed infill dwellings should have only a minimal impact on adjacent homes and be separated from neighbouring residences by vegetation, screening, natural elevation differences, or a combination of these features.
- h) Windows, decks and patios should be located so as to minimize intrusion onto the privacy of adjacent properties.
- i) Infill dwellings should be sited to minimize the casting of shadows onto the private outdoor space of adjacent residential dwellings.

9.9.4.4 Landscaping

- j) Proposals for single-unit infill housing must include a landscape plan showing hard landscaping (i.e., parking areas, fences, and patios) as well as lawns, trees, shrubs, planting areas and proposed plant species.
- k) Retention and protection of trees and the natural habitat is encouraged wherever possible.

9.9.4.5 Private Open/Yard Space

- l) Any proposal for single-unit infill housing should provide for useable, private outdoor areas for each dwelling, at grade.

9.9.5 **Process**

9.9.5.1 Rezoning

- a) Single-unit infill housing will only be permitted through a rezoning process. Each application will be considered on its own merit.
- b) As well as the typical rezoning information, an application for a single-unit infill housing should include:
 - i) a summary of the proposal (prepared by the applicant) showing how it differs from the regular zoning requirements in terms of site coverage, floor area ratio, building envelope, number of parking spaces, amount of useable open space and common areas; and
 - ii) an illustration of the streetscape (to scale) showing the relationship of the proposed building to the five (5) adjacent buildings on either side of it and of the same buildings from the rear is required. For corner lots, the streetscape drawing must be provided for both street frontages.