

## Backyard Beekeeping Checklist:

The following checklist was created to provide prospective bee keepers with an easy to navigate checklist of requirements that they will be required to fulfill. For additional information, please contact the Animal Control by phone at 250-997-3882 and press 0 or by email at [animalcontrol@district.mackenzie.bc.ca](mailto:animalcontrol@district.mackenzie.bc.ca).

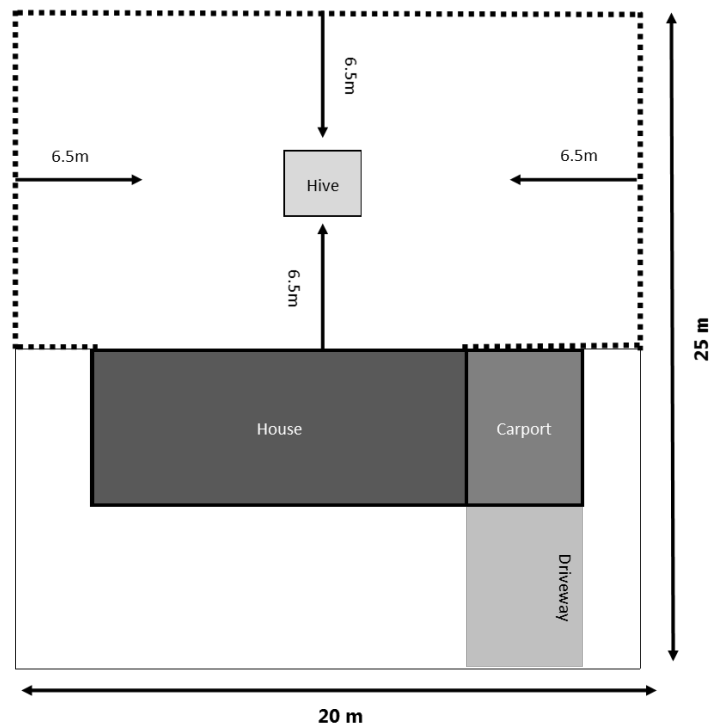
- I will secure a Backyard Beekeeping Permit from the District **prior** to having backyard bees
- I will register my bees with the Province of British Columbia:  
<https://forms.gov.bc.ca/industry/beekeeper-apiary-registration/>
- The property is zoned as R1 (Residential 1), R2 (Residential 2) or R3 (Residential 3)
- The home on the property is a single-detached dwelling
- I will have:
  - One colony (hive) of bees if my parcel is smaller than 600m<sup>2</sup>
  - Up to two colonies (two hives) if my parcel is larger than 600m<sup>2</sup>
- A resident of the property will be taking care of the bees
- I have the property owner's written consent (required if applicant is not the property owner)
- My backyard is fully fenced with no gaps, holes or missing fence boards
- My hive(s) is no closer than 6.5m from any of my property lines
- There will be adequate water provided on my parcel near the hive(s) to prevent the bees from seeking water from other sources
- I will take all reasonable efforts to prevent swarming

If you contravene any of the District's requirements after securing your Backyard Beekeeping Permit you may be liable to have your permit revoked.

**Regulations from Zoning Bylaw No. 1368, 2017**  
**Section 4.23 - Bee Keeping**

1. Where permitted within a zone, every person keeping bees and the owner of any parcel of land on which bees are kept must comply with the following regulations:
  - i. Provide adequate water to prevent the bees from seeking water from other sources, such as neighbourhood swimming pools, birdbaths, ponds or other bodies of water
  - ii. Take all reasonable measures to prevent swarming and aggressive behaviour by the bees
  - iii. If the bees swarm or show signs of aggressive behaviour, ensure that the bees are re-queened
  - iv. No more than two colonies of bees are permitted on a parcel having an area less than 1,100 metres<sup>2</sup>
  - v. No more than one colony of bees are permitted on a parcel having an area of less than 600 metres<sup>2</sup>
  - vi. A beehive is not permitted within 6.5 metres of any parcel line.
  
2. A valid permit must be obtained through the District of Mackenzie to operate a bee keeping operation.

**Example of residential lot with a bee hive according to new Zoning Bylaw regulations:**



Lot Size = 500m<sup>2</sup>

Backyard must be fully fenced.