



Condominium Conversion Permit Application and Checklist

A conversion permit shall be obtained before an owner offers to convey a converted unit. Condo conversions are not a change of use. They are considered a change of ownership of building area, not land. Subdivision is not involved. Only the legal number of dwelling units may be condominiumized. Any illegal units shall be removed or made legal by proper permitting.

Notice of intent to convert: All tenants shall be given a specific notice of the intent to convert their unit to a condominium from the developer. This notice shall contain a specific offer and terms for the tenant to purchase their unit. The notice shall contain specific wording outlined in Chapter 14, Article 18, Section 4 of the City Code that notifies the tenants of irrevocable rights and how to contact the City of Portland. The tenant shall also be given a specific time to vacate based upon the number of years that they have occupied their unit. The minimum notice to vacate is 120-day notice:

0-4 years = 120 days notice

7 years = 210 days notice

5 years = 150 days notice

8+ years = 240 days notice

6 years = 180 days notice

Sixty days after their notice, the tenant has an exclusive, irrevocable option to purchase their own unit. During that time, the owner/developer may not convey, the unit to any other person. For the next 180 days, the owner/developer cannot offer a more favorable price or term to any other person unless the same terms are offered to the original tenant first.

Rent may not be altered during the official noticing period unless expressly provided in a pre-existing written lease. The owner/developer shall post a copy of the issued permit in a conspicuous place in each unit, and make copies available to prospective purchasers upon request.

Relocation payments: If the tenant does not purchase, the developer shall (before the tenant is required to vacate) make a cash payment to the tenant in the amount of rent for the preceding two months only if the tenant meets the current 80% of the low/moderate income rules adjusted for family. Additionally, the developer shall, upon demand, provide other assistance to the tenant in the form of reasonable accommodations, referrals, and determining tenant eligibility.

Submission Checklist All applications shall be submitted online via the Citizen Self Service portal. Refer to the attached documents for complete instructions. The following items shall be submitted

Condominium Conversion Checklist (this form)

Tenant Data Form

Evidence of right, title and interest (e.g. deed, purchase and sale agreement with current deed)

Copy of notices of intent to convert, for each tenant* (Chapter 14, Section 18.4.3 of the City Code)

A plot plan, including the shape and dimension of the lot, footprints of structures, and the location and dimensions of parking areas and driveways

Dimensioned floor plans for each unit

****Any proposed construction or building alteration requires a separate building permit application.****

***Copies of your notice to each tenant must be attached to the permit application. No permit will be issued without copies of the notices. If there are building vacancies, you must provide the reason why the unit is vacant and the previous tenant's name, new address, and phone number.**



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Tenant Data for Condominium Conversion
(submit with Condominium Conversion Permit Application)

Project Address: _____ Number of legal dwelling unit in building: _____

Provide the following information for each tenant (if vacant, for the tenant from the past 6 months):

	Tenant Name	Tenant Phone #	Occupancy Length	Date of Notice	Eligible for Relocation Payment?
Unit 1					
Unit 2					
Unit 3					
Unit 4					
Unit 5					
Unit 6					
Unit 7					
Unit 8					
Unit 9					
Unit 10					

If more than 10 units, submit the same information for all units on a separate piece of paper.

Income Limits for Relocation Payments (per HUD FY2020 Income Limits, effective 4/1/2020)

Number of people in household and income limits:

- 1 - \$54,950
- 2 - \$62,800
- 3 - \$70,650
- 4 - \$78,500
- 5 - \$84,800
- 6 - \$91,100
- 7 - \$97,350
- 8 - \$103,650

For the most up-to-date information on income limits, visit: <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il.html>



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Land Use
Chapter 14
Rev. 9-9-2020

Section 18.4 CONDOMINIUM CONVERSION

Sec. 18.4.1. Purpose.

The purpose of this section is to regulate the conversion of rental housing to condominiums, to minimize the potential adverse impacts of such conversion on tenants, to ensure that such converted housing is safe and decent, and to maintain a reasonable balance of housing alternatives within the city for persons of all incomes.

Sec. 18.4.2. Applicability.

This section shall apply to the conversion of any rental unit to a condominium unit. For the purposes of this section, developer shall mean any person or other legal entity, but not including an established lending institution unless it is an active participant in a common promotional scheme, who, whether acting as principal or agent, records a declaration of condominium that includes real estate, any portion of which was previously a rental unit.

Sec. 18.4.3. Protection of tenants.

A. Notice of intent to convert. A developer shall give to each tenant, meaning any occupant in lawful possession of a rental unit, whether by lease, sublease, or otherwise, written notice of intent to convert at least one 120 days before the tenant is required by the developer to vacate. If a tenant has been in possession of any unit within the same building for more than four consecutive years, the notice period shall be increased by 30 additional days for each additional year, or fraction thereof, to a maximum of 240 additional days. The notice shall set forth specifically the rights of tenants under (A), (B), and (C) of this subsection and Subsection 18.4.4, and shall contain the following statement:

If you do not buy your apartment, the developer of this project is required by law to assist you in finding another place to live and in determining your eligibility for relocation payments. If you have questions about your rights under the law, or complaints about the way you have been treated by the developer, you may contact the Department of Permitting & Inspections, City of Portland, 389 Congress Street, Portland, Maine 04101.

B. If the notice specifies a date by which the tenant is required to vacate, the notice may also serve as a notice of termination under the applicable law of forcible entry and detainer, if it meets the requirements thereof. The notice shall be hand delivered to the tenant or mailed, by certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, to the tenant at the address of the unit or such other address as the tenant may provide.



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The notice shall be effective when actually received. No tenant may be required by a developer to vacate without having been given notice as required herein, except for the reasons specified in the applicable law of forcible entry and detainer, and in accordance with the procedures thereof. The terms of a tenancy, including rent, may not be altered during the notice period, except as expressly provided in a preexisting written lease. If, within 120 days after a tenant is required by a developer to vacate, the developer records a declaration of condominium without having given notice as required herein, the developer shall be presumed to have converted in violation of this article.

C. Option to purchase. For a 60-day period following the giving of notice as required in Subsection 18.4.3(A), the developer shall grant to the tenant an exclusive and irrevocable option to purchase the unit of which the tenant is then possessed, which option may not be assigned. If the tenant does not purchase or contract to purchase the unit during the 60-day period, the developer may not convey or offer to convey the unit to any other person during the following 180 days at a price or on terms more favorable than the price or terms previously offered to the tenant, unless the more favorable price or terms are first offered exclusively and irrevocably to the tenant for an additional 60-day period. This subsection shall not apply to any rental unit that, when converted, will be restricted exclusively to nonresidential use. If, within two years after a developer records a declaration of condominium, the use of any such unit is changed such that but for the preceding sentence, this subsection would have applied, the developer shall be presumed to have converted in violation of this article.

Sec. 18.4.4. Relocation payments

If the tenant does not purchase the unit, the developer shall, before the tenant is required by the developer to vacate, make a cash payment to the tenant in an amount equal to the amount of rent paid by the tenant for the immediately preceding two months, provided that this requirement shall not apply to any tenant whose gross income exceeds 80% of the median income of the Portland SMSA, adjusted for family size, as determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development at the time notice is given as required in Subsection 18.4.3. Additionally, the developer shall, upon demand, provide assistance to the tenant in the form of referrals to other reasonable accommodations and in determining the tenant's eligibility for relocation payments as provided herein.

Sec. 18.4.5. Conversion permit

Before conveying or offering to convey a converted unit, the developer shall obtain a conversion permit from the Building Authority. The permit shall issue only upon receipt of a completed application therefore in a form to be devised for that purpose, payment of a fee as established by the City Council, and a finding, upon inspection, that each unit, together with any common areas and facilities appurtenant thereto, is in full compliance with all applicable provisions of Chapter 6, Articles II, III, and V and Chapter 10, Article II of the City of Portland Code of Ordinances, and the Life Safety Code as adopted by the state. The developer shall post a copy of the permit in a conspicuous place in each unit and shall make copies available to prospective purchasers upon request.



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Sec. 18.4.6. Variation by agreement.

No provision of or right conferred by this Section 18.4 may be waived by a tenant, by agreement or otherwise, and any such waiver shall be void. Any attempt to require, encourage, or induce a tenant to waive any provision hereof, or right conferred hereby, shall be a violation of this article. Nothing herein shall be construed to void any term of a lease which offers greater rights than those conferred hereby.



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Dear Applicant,

Beginning March 19, 2018, all building permits shall be submitted online via the City of Portland's Citizen Self Service (CSS) portal. Online submission of permit applications will help to streamline the application intake process and will improve transparency for the permitting process. In order to submit an application, you will need to register with CSS using a valid e-mail address. Refer to the instructions on the Citizen Self Service homepage, or via the links at the bottom of this page. Please verify that you have selected the correct permit type and checklist and that you have compiled all the required drawings and documents before beginning the application process.

Please note that our format for application submissions has changed. All application documentation shall be compiled into two PDF files-- one file containing all drawing sheets and a second PDF file containing all supporting documentation. Refer to the Requirements for Electronic Submissions for specific instructions on how to prepare your application submission and to the appropriate checklist for required submission items. The review of your application will not begin until a complete application has been submitted and the permit fee has been paid in full. Work may not commence until the permit has been issued.

If you have questions, please contact the Permitting and Inspections Department at (207) 874-8703 or permitting@portlandmaine.gov. Thank you in advance for your patience as we transition to a new and improved permitting system.

For more information:

[How to Apply for a Permit](#)

[How to Register with CSS](#)

[Permit Type Guide](#)

[Requirements for Electronic Submissions](#)

[Citizen Self Service](#)



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How to Apply for a Permit

All permit applications shall be submitted online through the City of Portland's [Citizen Self Service](#) (CSS) portal. Online submissions will streamline the application intake process and will allow for greater transparency for applicants during the permit review process. You will be able to view the progress of your permit application, pay invoices, resubmit files and request inspections through CSS. Before submitting an application, please read the instructions below:

1. To begin, review the [Permit Type Guide](#) to determine the appropriate permit type and work class for your project.
2. Once you have determined the correct permit type, refer to the corresponding submission checklist and instructions for that permit type.
3. Compile all the required drawings and documentation as listed on the checklist into two PDF files (one file containing all drawing sheets and one file for all supporting documentation).
4. Go to the [CSS website](#) to apply for your permit. If you have not registered with CSS, see the instructions for registering, [here](#).
5. Once you have logged in to CSS, go to Apply and select the correct permit type. For a full list of all permit types, select All, under Permits.
6. Select Apply, next to the correct permit type. This will take you to the online application form.
7. Complete the form. All fields with a red asterisk are required.
 - a. To add a location, click on the plus sign and search for the project address. If the address cannot be found in the search, go to the City's [Parcel Map Viewer](#), to find the correct parcel address (this may be different than your street address or mailing address. Please input a parcel address that is recognized by the system to avoid delays in the intake process). For the Search function, entering less in the Search box will return more results.
 - b. To add a Contact, click the plus sign under the appropriate contact type and search.
 - c. Complete all other relevant and required fields and click Next. Once you've completed all pages of the form, you will have the opportunity to review the information before submitting. Once submitted, you cannot change your application information.
8. After reviewing your application information, click Submit. You will receive an e-mail confirming receipt of your application.
9. Permitting staff will review your application for completeness. You will be notified via e-mail if any items are missing. Upload requested items via CSS Attachments.
10. When the application is complete, you will receive an e-mail directing you to CSS to pay your invoice.
11. Once payment is received, your permit will go into review.



Requirements for Electronic Submissions

In order to ensure a timely review of the application, please read and follow the requirements below for all submissions:

- **Initial submission files shall be submitted via the Citizen Self Service portal. Before submitting an application, review [How to Apply for a Building Permit](#).**
- **Submissions should include two PDF files—one file containing all drawing sheets and one file containing all other supporting documents.** Only PDF files are acceptable for plan review. Files should be labeled either “Drawings” or “Documents” with the project address included in the file name.
- **Drawing files shall be bookmarked with names based on the drawing sheet number and name.** It is recommended to include a Category/Discipline letter (such as A for Architectural), a sheet number and a descriptive title (e.g., A1 Existing Exterior Elevation).
- **A graphic scale or a scale to reference shall be included on each drawing sheet.**
- **Plans prepared by a design professional shall include a Code Analysis sheet,** referencing the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code and Portland City Code, Chapter 10 – Fire Prevention and Protection, which includes NFPA 1, Fire Code and NFPA 101, Life Safety Code. Chapter 10 of the City Code can be viewed at:
<http://www.portlandmaine.gov/citycode/chapter010.pdf>.
- **Submissions should include all required documents and drawings as listed on the appropriate Submission Checklist sheet specific to the type of work being performed.**
- **Corrections made by City of Portland plan reviewers will be available for the applicant to view by logging into CSS and selecting “eReviews”.**
- **Revisions submitted in response to plan review comments should be uploaded directly in eReview by logging into CSS, going to the permit record and selecting eReviews.**

For further information and to access PDF versions of this and other forms, visit the Permitting and Inspections Department online at <http://portlandmaine.gov/1728/Permitting-Inspections>.