



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA
Department of Planning

A Guide for Satellite Dishes

The Bermuda Plan 2008 sets out guidelines for where, what and how you can develop in Bermuda. This policy statement provides guidance with respect to satellite dishes.

Is planning permission always required to erect a satellite dish?

Dishes permanently attached to the ground or buildings, with a diameter of 4 ft or less, are a permitted form of development in accordance with the General Development Order (GDO). Therefore, planning permission is not required. The GDO is further explained in GN101. Portable dishes, meaning those on 'wheels' or tripods, do not require planning permission. Portable dishes are generally not more than 6 ft in diameter. You cannot erect these dishes above the eave line of any building.

Any proposed alterations to listed buildings are not permitted under the GDO. You cannot erect a dish on any listed building without planning permission which involves the application being reviewed by the Historic Buildings Advisory Committee.

When is planning permission required?

Dishes with a diameter greater than 4 ft that are permanently attached to the ground or a building do require planning permission. The placement, size, construction and colour of the dish should be designed to have the least impact on the neighbourhood. If necessary, steps to help screen the dish from view by planting shrubs may be required as part of the approval process.

It is unlikely that the Development Applications Board will approve a residential satellite dish that has a diameter greater than 10 ft. Also, its maximum height, when erected in an upright position must not be more than 2 ft greater than its overall diameter.

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What are the application requirements?

For all planning applications for satellite dishes Chapter 8: Design and Chapter 12: Utility Services should be reviewed and the application should conform to these chapters of the plan. The Design chapter highlights the importance of urban design and the Bermuda Image. The Utility Services chapter promotes the development of utility infrastructure with the slightest visual impact possible on the surrounding area.

An application for a satellite dish must include:

1. Three copies of the completed DAP1 Application Form giving details of the dish, including its height, diameter, construction (mesh or solid) and colour;
2. Five copies of a location plan showing your property outlined in red;
3. Five copies of a site plan showing the position of the dish in relation to boundaries and buildings;
4. Relevant landscaping features on the site such as existing vegetation or the location of any new screen planting;
5. Photos of a temporary pole erected in the location of the property dish which are taken from vantage points outside the property (i.e. the estate road or a neighbouring property); and,
6. For dishes visible from neighbouring properties, a letter from the neighbour is required.