



In All Zoning Districts:

Registration with the San Mateo Agricultural Commission: All hives require an application and must be registered with the San Mateo County Agricultural Commissioner. Proposed changes to the number and location of beehives on a lot requires review by the Planning Division for approval. All changes must be reported to the San Mateo Agricultural Commission.

Neighbor notification: Occupants on neighboring properties shall be notified of proposed hive location prior to the submission of an application. Notification of

Pollinator-friendly vegetation: Pollinator-friendly plant sources and water must be provided onsite to sustain honeybee colonies. Information on what types of plants may be appropriate can be found on the California Native Plant Society: [calscape.org](https://www.calscape.org)

Beekeeping

Beekeeping is permitted Citywide subject to all applicable requirements in South San Francisco Municipal Code Section (SSFMC) 20.350.007 ("Animal Keeping").

These requirements are designed to keep people and pets safe while also allowing opportunities for keeping hives on residential and commercial properties for educational activities and self-enrichment.

Application Process and submittal items

- Completed and signed Beekeeping Application
- Site Plan which includes the following:
 - Property lines
 - Lot Dimensions
 - All buildings/Structures
 - Proposed location and dimensions of hives and flyway barrier,
- Show distance of hives from flyway barrier, property lines, dwellings, trees, fence, and neighboring buildings.



City of South San Francisco Beekeeping Regulations



• Residential



Residential Zoning Districts include the following: RL RM, RH, DRM, and DRH.

- If you are interested in applying to keep bees on a property in one of these districts, the following standards apply:
- Hives are restricted to rear yards.
- A flyway barrier such as a hedge or fence that is a minimum of 6 feet and a maximum of 8 feet in height.
- Flyway barrier must be placed parallel to the property line and be placed between 3 and 5 feet from the hive's entryway.
- The surrounding area within a 10-foot radius of the hives must be completely clear of dense brush, low-lying branches, and tall weeds to avoid impeding the bees flight path.

Non-Residential



Non-Residential Districts include the following: DRC, LNC, GAC, DTC, ETC< CC, BPO, BTP, BTP-H, MIM, MIH, PCP, S, PR, OS, PD, and all form-based zones (T3N, T3ML, T4L, T5C) Bees kept on these lots are subject to the following standards:

- Hives shall be placed a minimum of 25 feet away from all property lines, public seating areas, and pedestrian areas.
- Screening of hives is required in non-residential districts. Acceptable screening includes a flyway barrier such as a hedge, fence, or lattice that is a minimum of 6 feet and a maximum of 8 feet in height.
- Flyway barriers must be placed, parallel to the property line, and sit between 3 and 5 feet from the hive's entryway
- Rooftop Hives must be located at a minimum of 8 feet above grade.

Local Beekeeping Resources



Beekeepers Guild of San Mateo County: One-stop site for community education, beginner beekeeping resources, events, literature, and information on where to purchase equipment.

Website: sanmateobeeguild.org

Email: learnaboutbees@sanmateobeeguild.org

San Mateo County Mosquito & Vector Control: Manages invasive insect and rodent species for San Mateo County. Requests for service can be submitted through the website.

Website: www.smcmvcd.org

Phone: 650-344-8592

NorCal Bees: Provides 24/7 Emergency Bee, wasp, hornet, and yellow jacket Removal, hive installation, hive maintenance services, and bee sales.

Website: norcalbees.com

Email: alvaradojosman1@gmail.com

Phone: 415-525-9126