



## What is an Encroachment?

An encroachment is anything placed on Township-owned land without permission.

This includes:

- Landscaping: trees, hedges, gardens, shrubs,
- Signs, fences, retaining walls, steps,
- Benches, furniture, ramps, picnic tables,
- Display items or personal property,
- Anything above, on, or below public land – including boulevards, sidewalks, roads, ditches, or parks.

No one may erect, place, or maintain anything on Township property (including easements and rights-of-ways) unless authorized through a valid encroachment agreement.

## What is considered Township-owned land?

Township-owned land includes roads, sidewalks, boulevards, ditches, parks, open spaces, and other lands maintained or controlled by the Township – even if they appear to be a part of a front yard.

### Examples of unauthorized encroachments:

- Gardens planted on the boulevard.
- Ramps or steps that extend onto a sidewalk.
- Stones, markers, or edging in ditches or road allowances.
- Signs or banners that extend over the sidewalks, boulevards, or other public lands.

## How to Apply for an Encroachment Agreement.

### Submit an application to Public Works, including:

- A description and site plan,
- Proof the encroachment is safe, minor, and in the public interest,
- The non-refundable application fee.

**Learn more about the application here:**



## When do You Need an Encroachment Agreement?

### You must apply if:

- You want to install or keep any feature on public land.
- You're requesting use of land for access, support, or private benefit.
- You want to formalize an existing encroachment.

Some items like election signs or temporary special event signs may fall under separate by-laws. Check with the Township before placing anything.

## Township of Uxbridge

## Public Guide to Encroachment By-law



**TOWNSHIP OF UXBRIDGE**  
Trail Capital of Canada

## Do I Still Need an Encroachment Permit if I have a Patio Permit?

**No, if you have an approved Temporary Seasonal Patio Permit, you do not need a separate Encroachment Permit for the patio setup**

The patio permit temporarily authorizes the use of public land (e.g. sidewalks or parking spaces) for an outdoor dining from May 1 to October 31, provided you follow all conditions set out in the permit and policy.

However, any items placed outside of the approved patio permit, or placed outside of the patio season, or are not included in the patio permit are subject to the encroachment by-law and may require a separate encroachment agreement.

### Check Before you Install

Not sure if something's allowed near the road or sidewalk? Reach out to us first--we're happy to help!

Encroachments are regulated under the Township's by-law and may be subject to enforcement, so a quick check can help you avoid any issues or unexpected costs.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

**Q: Do I need permission to put a bench, planter, or sign in front of my home or business?**

A: Yes, Anything placed on Township-owned land (like boulevards or sidewalks) is considered an encroachment and requires prior approval through an **Encroachment Agreement** unless otherwise exempted by a specific by-law.

**Q: What about accessibility ramps – aren't they allowed?**

A: Accessibility ramps that extend onto public land still count as encroachments and require approval.

To be permitted, they must be:

- Necessary and safe for public use.
- Installed in a way that does not create a tripping hazard or block access.
- Compliant with **AODA standards** and **Building Code**.

If the sidewalk is owned by the Region of Durham, a separate Permission to Enter or Encroachment Agreement with the Region is required. Email: [works-realestate-services@durham.ca](mailto:works-realestate-services@durham.ca).

**Q: What if I already have something on the boulevard?**

A: You must still need an **Encroachment Agreement**. Pre-existing encroachments are not automatically allowed unless covered by a valid agreement or exemption. Contact the Township Roads Department to review your situation.

## Emergency or Safety Risk?

If your encroachment creates a risk to public health or safety, the Township may act immediately and without notice to remove the risk, at your cost.

## Stay in Touch

If your address changes or you discontinue your encroachment, notify:

**Director of Public Works and Operations**

Township of Uxbridge  
P.O. Box 190, 51 Toronto St. S.,  
Uxbridge, ON, L9P 1T1.

### Questions?

Visit [uxbridge.ca](http://uxbridge.ca) or call the Public Works Department at 905-852-9181.