

Home Occupations

What is a Home Occupation?

A Home Occupation is an accessory occupational use conducted entirely within a dwelling or an accessory building which does not change the residential character of the site. The regulations regarding Home Occupations are found in Section 20-12 of the Zoning Regulations.

What are the restrictions regarding home occupations?

These regulations can be found in Section 20-1201 of the Zoning Regulations:

- a. Restrictions and Limitations; All Home Occupations. The following shall apply to any home occupation in existence at the time of, or commenced after, the effective date of these Regulations:
 1. No exterior alterations or other construction shall be made to the dwelling which changes the character or appearance from its primary residential use.
 2. No equipment or material shall be used which creates any noise, vibration, smoke or odors perceptible at the boundary lines of the property, which would be in excess of that ordinarily created by a single family residential dwelling.
 3. No merchandise shall be displayed or sold on the premises to members of the general public, except craft or articles made by the person operating the home occupation. In no instance shall there be any outside display of such articles in connection with the home occupation. "Members of the general public" shall not include persons who have prior individualized invitation.
 4. The area of an accessory structure devoted to home occupations shall be limited to nine hundred (900) square feet.
- b. Restrictions and Limitations; New Home Occupations. The following shall apply to any home occupation commenced after the effective date of these Regulations:
 1. No more than one employee or volunteer shall engage in such home occupation in addition to the person occupying the dwelling unit as his or her place of residence.
 2. There shall be no outdoor storage of materials or equipment used in the home occupation.

What uses are permitted as home occupations?

20-1203. Permitted home occupations are primarily of a service nature similar to, but not limited to, the following:

- a. Artists, sculptors and writers.
- b. Custom dressmaking, tailoring or sewing of fabrics.

- c. Giving of lessons of any type, provided instruction does not exceed five (5) pupils at a time. Such limitation shall not apply to recitals or other performances.
- d. Professional offices for architects, engineers, computer software engineers, planners, lawyers, accountants, bookkeepers, realtors, insurance agents, brokers, sales representatives, contractors, and similar occupations.
- e. Fabrication and/or assembly of handicraft or hobby articles.
- f. Occupations where business is conducted primarily or exclusively over the Internet.
- g. Photographic studios.
- h. Beauty or barber shops having one chair, stand or station.
- i. Multi-level marketing and home party product sales, including but not limited to, Avon, Mary Kay Cosmetics and Tupperware.
- j. Sales of farm or garden produce, bulbs, plantings or cut flowers when grown on the same premises as the residence.

What uses are specifically prohibited as home occupations?

20-1204. Except where allowed as a permitted or conditional use, home occupations shall not in any event include the following:

- a. Antiques, either retail or wholesale.
- b. Animal care other than grooming.
- c. Funeral homes or services.
- d. Retail sale or rental of any goods or products, other than where the commercial exchange constituting such sales or rental is accomplished by means of catalog orders, whether in written or electronic form.
- e. Automotive sales, repair or service of any type.
- f. Appliance repairs (other than for small electronic devices including computers and hand-held household appliances).
- g. Small-engine repairs.