

HOME OCCUPATION PROVISION OF THE COLUMBUS ZONING CODE

Department of Building & Zoning Services

Scott Messer, Director
757 Carolyn Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43224-3218
Phone: 614-645-7433 www.columbus.gov

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING
AND ZONING SERVICES

3303.08 – Definition

“Home occupation” means an accessory use of a dwelling unit for a legitimate business, profession, trade or vocation conducted within an enclosed dwelling, which is clearly incidental and secondary to residential occupancy and does not change the residential character thereof.

3332.34 Residential Character. (Also 3333.31, 3345.15, and 3347.11)

An accessory use customarily incident to a use permitted in an R-Rural, LRR, RRR, RR, SR, R-1, R-2, R-3, R-2F or R-4 residential district or MHD Manufactured Home Development District shall be permitted in such district, respectively, subject to the limitations stated in this chapter or elsewhere in this Zoning Code, and shall not be such as to infringe upon the residential character of the district.

3332.37 Home Occupation. (Also 3333.34, 3345.16, and 3347.12)

The purpose of this section is to permit a home occupation as an accessory use if it is compatible with the residential character of the neighborhood in which it is located and is conducted so as not to have an adverse affect upon the average neighbor under normal circumstances; to set standards by which to judge the operation of such use; and to prohibit uses which are incompatible with permissible uses in residential districts. A home occupation may be an accessory use in any residential district subject to the following conditions:

- A. Any home occupation use shall be confined to the principal residence of the individual so engaged; shall be excluded from any yard or accessory building; and, shall be clearly incidental and subordinate to the primary residential use.
- B. No alteration shall be made in either the internal or external structural form of the residential building or the external appearance for purposes of any home occupation. The removal of partitions or floors, or parts thereof, shall be construed as an alteration of the external or internal structural form and is, therefore, prohibited.
- C. No evidence of any home occupation shall be visible from off the lot where it is conducted except for no more than one (1) home occupation sign displayed in compliance with C.C. 3376.08(B)(1)–(6).
- D. No more than (20) percent of the livable area of any residence shall be used for a home occupation.
- E. No person other than a permanent resident of the dwelling unit shall be engaged in or employed at any home occupation within such dwelling unit except that in connection with the practice of a profession which can be practiced only with the assistance of supportive personnel, one (1) person not residing in such dwelling unit may be so employed. Profession is limited herein to architect, attorney, clergyman, dentist, engineer, physician or surgeon.
- F. No storage of equipment or materials used in a home occupation shall be outside the principal residence.
- G. No change shall be made in any utility line, meter or service to accommodate a home occupation and utility use shall not unreasonably exceed that normally or previously used at such residence.
- H. No equipment or process shall be used in any home occupation which emits radiation or creates noise, vibration, glare, fumes, odors, or electrical interference detectable to the normal senses off the lot used for such home occupation. In the case of electrical interference, no equipment or process shall be used which creates visual or audible interference.
- I. No traffic shall be generated by any home occupation unreasonably greater in volume or different in nature than would otherwise normally occur in the residential neighborhood in which it is located.
- J. No wholesale or retail business shall be conducted in a dwelling unit.

Provisions of this section relating to a dwelling shall apply equally to a manufactured home only in a MHD Manufactured Home Development District.