



HOME OCCUPATION DEFINITION & RESTRICTIONS

Home Occupations are businesses that are located within a dwelling in a residential zone district. These businesses are regulated by the definition provided in Zoning Code Section 14.02.070:

“Home Occupation” means an occupation carried on in a home, provided no assistants are employed and provided such use is conducted within a dwelling and carried on by the occupants of the property, and is clearly incidental to the residential use of the dwelling, and does not change the residential character or appearance of the dwelling or adversely affect the uses permitted in the residential district of which it is a part, and wherein no product, other than those produced on the premises, is sold and no mechanical equipment is used, other than that necessary for domestic purposes, and where there is no indoor or outdoor storage of materials, equipment, and/or supplies, other than those necessary for domestic purposes.

Specifically, the following limitations apply to businesses that are seeking approval as a Home Occupation:

- The business operator must live in the dwelling as their primary residence.
- There can be no employees working at the dwelling who do not live there as their primary residence.
- The business use must be clearly incidental to the residential use of the dwelling, and not adversely affect the surrounding neighborhood where the dwelling is located (i.e. traffic, client visits, etc.).
- There cannot be any products sold from the dwelling that are not produced on the premises.

Prior to starting the establishment of a home occupation business, the operator must receive approval from the Planning Division to verify compliance with the Zoning Code and a business license from the Finance Department. For any questions relating to home occupations please contact the Community Development Department. For questions about obtaining a business license, please contact the Finance Department at (650) 947-2760 or finance@losaltosca.gov.