



Home Occupation

Attached you will find the information packet for a Home Occupation which is a change of use; the packet includes the section of the Land Use Ordinance that outlines the criteria you must fall into to be considered a home occupation. Please check with the City Clerk's Office in room 205, City Hall to see if you will need a business license. For further information or to download copies of this form and other applications visit our website at www.portlandmaine.gov

When applying for the permit you will need to include the following information:

- A cover letter explaining your home occupation and how it meets the criteria, item by item (see Sample letter below).
- Dimensioned floor plans of the entire dwelling noting the specifics of your proposed home occupation.
- If you do not own the property, a letter from the owner, giving you permission to conduct the specific home occupation.
- If there are going to be any structural modifications, you will also include those drawings, which must provide specific dimensions as well as stating all materials to be used.

Fees:

Change of Use for home occupation:	\$150.00.
Certificate of Occupancy	\$75.00
Structural Changes:	\$10.00 per thousand of estimated cost of work.

A change of use means that we are going to review this project as an additional use to the property other than just a dwelling space.

Sample Letter

Ms. Marge Schmuckal
Zoning Administrator
Department of Urban Development
City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04101

Dear Ms. Schmuckal:

I am requesting a permit to allow me the use of my residence at 22114B One Street for a home occupation. I intend to serve as an independent computer consultant, creating customized databases for athletic and educational organizations. In effect my work will be computer programming, an acceptable home occupation listed under item (2) of Section 14-410 of the Portland Zoning Ordinance. The following is an explanation of how my home occupation meets the criteria listed under item (1) of the same.

- a. My home occupation will occupy approximately 176 square feet (11%) of floor area of the residence
- b. No goods will be stored displayed or be visible from outside the residence
- c. Storage of the material necessary to perform my occupation are minimal and included in the 200 square feet of floor space mentioned above
- d. There will be no external signage related to my home occupation
- e. No exterior alterations to the residence are necessary
- f. Since I will not be meeting clients at my residence, no additional parking is necessary
- g. No objectionable effects will result from my home occupation
- h. I will not require the services of any employees
- i. Since I will not be meeting clients at my residence, no additional traffic will be generated by my home occupation
- j. No vehicles even nearing a gross vehicle weight of 6,000 pounds are necessary for my home occupation

As you can see, my home occupation is a secondary and incidental use of my residence. The external activity level and impact is negligible and in keeping with the residential character of the neighborhood.

Attached you will find a copy of a floor plans showing my entire dwelling and area of the home occupation space, as well as a letter from the owner of the building granting permission to conduct a home occupation on the premises. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.



General Building Permit Application

If you or the property owner owes real estate or personal property taxes or user charges on any property within the City, payment arrangements must be made before permits of any kind are accepted.

Location/Address of Construction:		
Total Square Footage of Proposed Structure/Area		Square Footage of Lot
Tax Assessor's Chart, Block & Lot Chart# Block# Lot#	Applicant *must be owner, Lessee or Buyer* Name Address City, State & Zip	Telephone:
Lessee/DBA (If Applicable)	Owner (if different from Applicant) Name Address City, State & Zip	Cost Of Work: \$ _____ C of O Fee: \$ _____ Total Fee: \$ _____
Current legal use (i.e. single family) _____ If vacant, what was the previous use? _____ Proposed Specific use: _____ Is property part of a subdivision? _____ If yes, please name _____ Project description:		
Contractor's name: _____ Address: _____ City, State & Zip _____ Telephone: _____ Who should we contact when the permit is ready: _____ Telephone: _____ Mailing address: _____		

Please submit all of the information outlined on the applicable Checklist. Failure to do so will result in the automatic denial of your permit.

In order to be sure the City fully understands the full scope of the project, the Planning and Development Department may request additional information prior to the issuance of a permit. For further information or to download copies of this form and other applications visit the Inspections Division on-line at www.portlandmaine.gov, or stop by the Inspections Division office, room 315 City Hall or call 874-8703.

I hereby certify that I am the Owner of record of the named property, or that the owner of record authorizes the proposed work and that I have been authorized by the owner to make this application as his/her authorized agent. I agree to conform to all applicable laws of this jurisdiction. In addition, if a permit for work described in this application is issued, I certify that the Code Official's authorized representative shall have the authority to enter all areas covered by this permit at any reasonable hour to enforce the provisions of the codes applicable to this permit.

Signature: _____	Date: _____
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This is not a permit; you may not commence ANY work until the permit is issue