

# Requirements Concerning Home Occupations in San Mateo County

## What is a home occupation?



A home occupation is the operation of a business in a residence.

## Are home occupations permitted?

Within certain guidelines, some occupations are permitted in any of the following districts: RE, RH, R-1, R-2, R-3, R-3-A, RM, RM-CZ, and PAD.

## What guidelines apply?

- ✓ You may not conduct retail trade—a business that sells products or provides services to walk-in customers.
- ✓ You may sell commodities only if they are produced on the premises.
- ✓ You may not maintain any stock-in-trade.
- ✓ You may have employees only if they live on the premises.
- ✓ You may use no more than 25% of the area of the ground floor for your occupation.
- ✓ You may not make building alterations or use any equipment that is not customarily found in a home.

## May I have an office at home?



Architects, lawyers, doctors, and other professionals may have their offices at home, subject to the same requirements as people with any other home occupation. However, no clients or patients may visit their offices because such districts lack adequate streetways and parking for commercial offices.

## May I hang a sign outside my home?

You may have one unlighted sign covering an area of no more than 2 square feet which states the name and occupation only.

## Am I required to have any County permits or pay any County fees for a home occupation?



No. However, if you are new in business you may wish to consult a legal advisor about licenses or taxes that may be required by the State or other government body. For example, you may be required to have a resale license from the State Board of Equalization (650/573-3855).

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