



Home Occupations

When you operate a business from your house, it is called a home occupation. Home occupations are permitted in all residential and office-institutional zoning districts as long as they operate within certain guidelines.

Opening a Business in Your Home

Before opening your business, you will need to complete steps 1 and 2 on the **New Business Checklist**. You can find the Checklist on the City's website or at City Hall. **You will not need to complete steps 3 and 4.**

I want to put up a sign for my home business.

Before you put up a sign, you will need to get a **Sign Permit**. You can find the Application for a Sign Permit on the City's website or at City Hall. A sign for a home occupation can only be permitted if it meets the guidelines in (7) at right.

Examples of Home Occupations

- Typing Services
- Telephone, Catalog or Internet Sales
- Architects or Engineers
- Accountants
- Food Catering
- Handcrafting
- Lawn Maintenance with equipment stored in a building
- Cleaning or Handyman Services

A Home Occupation is a profession or occupation carried on by a person residing on the premises. Home occupations are permitted only as an incidental use inside the home and must operate within the following guidelines, without changing the essential residential character of the dwelling;

- (1) A home occupation shall occupy no more than 25% of the gross floor area of a dwelling unit.
- (2) There shall be no outdoor storage or visible evidence of equipment or materials used in the home occupation, unless the equipment or materials are of a type and quantity that could reasonable associated with the principal residential use. One commercial road-legal vehicle, with no more than three axles is permitted. A single trailer used for cargo/storage, but no construction or industrial equipment can be stored on the trailer for more than seven days.
- (3) The home occupation must be conducted entirely within a dwelling unit. Up to one third or one hundred square feet (whichever is larger) of an accessory building may be used in connection with the business.
- (4) Only one person may be employed who is not an occupant of the residence. Employees may not come to the residence for exterior work purposes, including pick-up of materials, vehicles, assignments, or similar purposes.
- (5) Activities shall not generate traffic, parking, noise, odors or electrical interference beyond that normally occurring in the zoning district.
- (6) Instruction in music, dancing, art or similar subjects shall be limited to no more than five students at a time.
- (7) Sign Specifications: See Section 10-398 (2).

Graham City Hall, 201 S Main St

www.cityofgraham.com

All regulations for Home Occupations are in the *City of Graham Development Ordinance*

For questions, contact the Planning Department at (336) 570-6705 or npage@cityofgraham.com