

# ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS & ACCESSORY STRUCTURES

June 23, 2022

## **ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS (ADUs)** are permitted in all residential districts subject to the following:

- Number. One per lot in conjunction with a detached single-family structure (See OMC 18.04.080(A)(3) regarding ADUs in new subdivisions).
- <u>Location</u>. The ADU may be added to, created within, or detached from the primary dwelling. The ADU shall be oriented in a way that maintains, to the extent practical, the privacy of residents in adjoining dwellings.
- <u>Size.</u> The ADU shall have a gross floor area of no more than eight hundred fifty (850) square feet. ADUs may be attached to accessory structures such as a garage or shop building. In such circumstances, the ADU may be up to 850 square feet in size and the accessory structure may be up to the maximum size allowed: generally 1200 square feet for detached garages, 800 square feet for all other accessory structures. Covered porches or patios (or similar covered spaces) do not count toward the gross floor area of the ADU but are limited to a total of 120 square feet and may not be enclosed.
- Occupancy. No more than one family is allowed to occupy an ADU.
- **<u>Deviation from Requirements.</u>** The Director may allow deviation from the requirements as follows:
  - To allow use of the entirety of a single floor in a dwelling constructed two (2) or more years prior to the date of application in order to efficiently use all floor area; and
  - To enable ADUs to be established in structures constructed prior to June 19, 1995, which are located in rear or side setbacks, provided that Building Code requirements and Development Standards contained in Section 18.04.080 are met.

#### Other requirements to consider when constructing an ADU:

- Connections to city sewer and water services can share the same connections as the primary home.
- Minimum ADU Setbacks -
  - Five (5) feet from any interior side property line and ten (10) feet from a flanking street side yard.
  - Detached ADUs may encroach into the rear yard. However, if the rear yard does not abut an alley, the accessory unit must be setback ten (10) feet from the rear property line.
- Building Height Maximum height of detached ADUs is 24 feet, measured at mid gable.
- ADU Fire Sprinklers OMC 16.04.020, 16.04.040(6). In general, if the existing home is sprinklered or is required to be sprinklered, the ADU must be sprinklered. If the existing home is not sprinklered the ADU does not have to be sprinklered. For questions, please contact the Fire Marshal. This graphic may help: Is the existing home sprinklered? Yes or No.
- CONVERTED GARAGE

  DETACHED ADU

  YES

  ATTACHED ADU

  YES

  BASEMENT CONVERSION

  NO
- <u>Design Review</u> of the ADU is required. The review is conducted as part of the building permit application process (see criteria below).
- Impact fees are applicable and are paid at building permit issuance (see current fee schedule).
- <u>Parking</u> A parking space is allowed but not required. Some areas of the city require a <u>residential</u> <u>parking pass</u> to park on the street.

# **DESIGN REVIEW for ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS (ADU)**

#### **BUILDING DESIGN**

<u>REQUIREMENT</u>: Reflect the architectural character of the primary residence in the ADU through use of related building features.



#### **GUIDELINES:**

- 1. Replicate or approximate roof forms and pitch found on the existing residence.
- 2. Use window patterns and proportions similar to those on existing residence.
- 3. Use building facade material and colors that match or are compatible with those used on the existing residence.

#### **ADU ENTRY FEATURES**

<u>REQUIREMENT</u>: Provide a clearly defined building entry for the ADU that is easily accessible from the street or the existing residence. Provide a well-lighted, paved sidewalk to the building entry.



#### **GUIDELINE:**

- 1. The entry to an ADU may be shared with the primary residence.
- 2. When there is a separate entry, construct an identifying feature, such as a porch, stoop and/or an eave overhang that is integral to the ADU structure.
- 3. When an exterior stairway to the main ADU entrance is needed, avoid the use of open metal, prefabricated stairs.

#### **OTHER ACCESSORY STRUCTURES**

Accessory structures (e.g. garage, shed, art studio) are permitted in residential zones subject to the following:

- <u>Time of Establishment.</u> Accessory structures shall not be built prior to commencing construction of the main building on the lot. However, lots may be created which contain an accessory structure (without an associated primary use) constructed prior to submission of the subdivision application.
- <u>Subordinance to Primary Use.</u> Accessory structures shall be clearly incidental and subordinate to the use of the lot (e.g., structures used for storage of personal property or the pursuit of hobbies) or used for agricultural purposes. In low density residential zoning districts each accessory structure shall not exceed eight hundred (800) square feet in size, except for structures accessory to an agricultural use which are located on a parcel one (1) acre or larger in size.
- Garages and Carports. Detached garages and carports shall meet the following standards:
  - Shall not exceed a total of one thousand two hundred (1,200) square feet of floor space per dwelling unit in some residential zoning districts, unless approved by a conditional use permit. Detached garages and carports shall be designed so the appearance of the building is consistent with the primary structure by using similar materials and colors and by having a similar roof type or pitch.
  - Garages exceeding one thousand two hundred (1,200) square feet per dwelling unit may be permitted as conditional uses in the districts specified in Table 4.01 provided that they will not be

- adverse to the public interest and are compatible with the surrounding neighborhood. The Hearing Examiner shall establish a maximum size for garages receiving conditional use approval. See Section 18.04.080.
- Maximum building height on detached accessory structures is 16 feet, measured at mid-gable.
   Detached ADUs may be up to 24 feet in height, measured at mid-gable.

### **SETBACKS** (see Residential Setbacks handout for more details)

- A <u>detached garage</u> may be set on the property line if the garage door is at a right angle to the alley entrance. However, garage walls on or within 5 feet of the property line must be fire walls. If within three feet of the property line the wall shall have no windows or other openings. A detached garage may be set on the rear property line, but if the garage door faces a side yard (flanking street), it must be set back 20 feet from that side yard. A detached garage may be set on both the rear and side property lines if it has access from the front yard. In this case, both walls must be fire walls. If the garage doors face the alley, it must be setback 10 feet from the alley.
- A <u>detached accessory structure</u> such as a storage shed may be located anywhere within the rear forty feet of the lot, except when adjacent to a flanking street side yard (10-foot setback). The structure must be at least 6 feet from other structures.