

City of Palo Alto Department of Planning & Development Services

Home Business Limitations

Home businesses are a legal use, which do not require the issuance of a City business license or permit. However, the Zoning Ordinance (Section 18.42.060) contains several home business limitations designed to ensure compatibility with residential uses, preserve the residential character and appearance of the home, and; and prevent nuisances. These limitations are summarized as follows:

- 1. The business shall be conducted in a manner that is compatible with residential uses and which does not change the character and appearance of the home:
- 2. No person shall be employed on the site in connection with the business except occupants of the home:
- 3. No advertising shall be permitted on the site:
- 4. Not more than 25% of the floor area of the home, or 500 square feet of floor area on the site including accessory buildings, whichever is less, shall be devoted to the business:
- 5. The business shall not be conducted in a manner which generates traffic, parking demand, or vehicular deliveries substantially greater than customarily associated with residential use:
- 6. No mechanical, electrical, or other equipment (not including computers, fax machines, etc.) shall be used, nor shall the business be conducted in any manner which is a nuisance or is no xious, offensive, or hazardous by reason of vehicular traffic, noise, electrical or magnetic interference, vibration, particulate matter, odor, heat, humidity, glare, refuse, radiation, or other objectionable emissions or effects:
- 7. No outdoor storage of any material, equipment, or goods shall be permissible in connection with the business.

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