



TOWN OF
HILLSBOROUGH

Home Occupation FAQs

What is a home occupation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An accessory commercial use of a residential property by a resident of the property• It is the base of operations for the business and the primary function of the business takes place on the residential property.• The primary purpose of the property must remain a residence.
Do I need a permit for my home occupation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes, home occupations require a Zoning Compliance Permit• You can find the permit application here• The fee for the permit is \$25
Who should I contact before starting a home occupation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Town of Hillsborough Planning and Economic Development Division - Zoning 919-296-9470
What are some examples of home occupations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Barber/beauty salons• Internet Sales• Accountants• Crafts and artist studios
What home occupations are prohibited?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boarding of domesticated animals (kennels)• Dealerships for firearms or motor vehicles• Motor vehicle maintenance, service, or repair• Any use that is only permitted with a Conditional Use or Special Use Permit if otherwise located
If I work remotely from home for a business, do I need a home occupation permit?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No, if you are employed by a company with a separate location that is not a home occupation.
Can I run more than one business out of my home?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No, only one (1) home occupation per location is permitted
Can I operate out of an accessory structure, like a shed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes, but a home occupation may not occupy more than 500 square feet of an accessory building on the same parcel as the dwelling to which it is accessory. The accessory structure needs to be properly permitted.
What is the maximum total area permitted for use by a home occupation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The area occupied by the home occupation shall not exceed 25 percent of the heated floor area

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In no case may the area of a home occupation account for more than 600 square feet of total area on a parcel (dwelling, sheds, and accessory buildings)
How many customers can I have in my home at a time?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No more than 4 customers per hour No more than 10 customers per day No regular and on-going business-related vehicular traffic to and from the home
Can someone who does not live on the property operate a business from my residence?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, the principal person or persons providing the business or service must reside in the dwelling on the premises
Can I advertise the home occupation on my property?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, signs or advertising devices that can be seen from outside the dwelling or accessory building are not allowed
Can I have employees in my home occupation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The operator of the home occupation may not employ more than <u>one</u> (1) non-resident person on the premises
Can I display my goods outside?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, the site of the home occupation shall not contain any outdoor display or storage of goods, equipment, or services associated with the home occupation
Can I modify the structures on the property for my home occupation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, the home occupation shall not cause or result in any change in the external appearance of the existing dwelling and structures on the property
Is my home occupation allowed to generate much noise?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, a home occupation shall not create or exhibit an increase in noise markedly beyond that normally associated with a residential use
How many vehicles can I have on the property in connection with my home occupation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No more than two (2) business-related vehicles may be parked at the site of the home occupation No vehicles with a gross vehicle weight exceeding 5,000 pounds Vehicles associated with the home occupation should not disrupt the area's quiet nature and visual quality

This sheet is intended to be a quick reference guide. You may find the standards for Home Occupations in the Hillsborough UDO section 5.2.19:

<https://assets.hillsboroughnc.gov/media/documents/public/unified-development-ordinance-section-5.pdf>.