

## Accessory Dwellings (model code)

**Note:** ORS 197.312 requires that at least one accessory dwelling be allowed per detached single-family dwelling in every zone within an urban growth boundary that allows detached single-family dwellings. Accessory dwellings are an economical way to provide additional housing choices, particularly in communities with high land prices or a lack of investment in affordable housing. They provide an opportunity to increase housing supply in developed neighborhoods and can blend in well with single-family detached dwellings. Accessory dwelling regulations can be difficult to enforce when local codes specify who can own or occupy the homes. Requirements that accessory dwellings have separate connections to and pay system development charges for water and sewer services can pose barriers to development. Concerns about neighborhood compatibility, parking, and other factors should be considered and balanced against the need to address Oregon's housing shortage by removing barriers to development.

The model development code language below provides recommended language for accessory dwellings. The italicized sections in brackets indicate options to be selected or suggested numerical standards that communities can adjust to meet their needs. Local housing providers should be consulted when drafting standards for accessory dwellings, and the following standards should be tailored to fit the needs of your community.

Accessory dwellings, where allowed, are subject to review and approval through a Type I procedure, pursuant to Section 154.377, and shall conform to all of the following standards:

**[A. One Unit.** *A maximum of one Accessory Dwelling is allowed per legal single-family dwelling. The unit may be a detached building, in a portion of a detached accessory building (e.g., above a garage or workshop), or a unit attached or interior to the primary dwelling (e.g., an addition or the conversion of an existing floor).*

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**A. Two Units.** *A maximum of two Accessory Dwellings are allowed per legal single-family dwelling. One unit must be a detached Accessory Dwelling, or in a portion of a detached accessory building (e.g., above a garage or workshop), and one unit must be attached or interior to the primary dwelling (e.g., an addition or the conversion of an existing floor).]*

### **B. Floor Area.**

1. A detached Accessory Dwelling shall not exceed [800-900] square feet of floor area, or [75] percent of the primary dwelling's floor area, whichever is smaller.
2. An attached or interior Accessory Dwelling shall not exceed [800-900] square feet of floor area, or [75] percent of the primary dwelling's floor area, whichever is smaller. However, Accessory Dwellings that result from the conversion of a level or floor (e.g., basement, attic, or second story) of the primary dwelling may occupy the entire level or floor, even if the floor area of the Accessory Dwelling would be more than [800-900] square feet.

**C. Other Development Standards.** Accessory Dwellings shall meet all other development standards (e.g., height, setbacks, lot coverage, etc.) for buildings in the zoning district, except that:

1. Conversion of an existing legal non-conforming structure to an Accessory Dwelling is allowed, provided that the conversion does not increase the non-conformity; and

2. No off-street parking is required for an Accessory Dwelling.

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**Definition** (This should be included in the “definitions” section of the zoning ordinance. It matches the definition for Accessory Dwelling found in ORS 197.312)

**Accessory Dwelling** – An interior, attached, or detached residential structure that is used in connection with, or that is accessory to, a single-family dwelling.

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