

Information about Home Occupations and Home Businesses

A **Home Occupation** is any type of occupation or business conducted in the home where evidence of the occupation is not visible from other properties. There are no customers, no employees and no one comes to the house for business purposes. Examples of a Home Occupation include selling products on the internet, production of art or crafts for sale at another location and tele-commuting. No permit or approval is required for a Home Occupation.

Use the checklist below to determine if your business is considered a Home Occupation.

	True	False
The main use of my home will be my home, not my business.		
No people will come to my home to buy or pick up anything.		
Employees do not come to my home.		
I do not have merchandise that I sell at my home.		
All of my business activities are inside of my house or garage, including storage of materials.		
I do not keep heavy equipment or landscaping equipment at my house.		
I will not make changes to my home for the business.		
Any pickup or delivery of materials is similar to other residential properties.		
My business will not make noise, vibration, smoke, dust, odor or heat and will not cause electrical interference with radio or television transmission.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you answered True to all of the questions, your business is not regulated by the City of Holland. • If you answered False to any of the questions, please continue reading and fill out the Home Business Application form. 		

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A **Home Business** is an expansion of a Home Occupation and will be either a **Type 1** or **Type 2** Home Business. A permit and a home inspection are required before you begin your business. After approval is granted, the business permit must be renewed every other year.

A **Type 1 Home Business** may have up to 10 trips from customers who come to the house for business purposes, with no more than 2 customers at a time. Only family members living in the home may work at the business and there are no outdoor activities or outdoor sales. Some examples of a Type 1 Home Business include a hair salon, dog groomer, and an accountant.

A **Type 2 Home Business** may have an employee, additional customers, outdoor activities or outdoor sales. In addition to the home business permit and inspection, all Type 2 Home Businesses must obtain approval from the Board of Appeals after a public hearing.

Additional Information:

- Businesses must operate between 7AM – 9PM.
- The delivery and pick up of merchandise shall be similar in frequency to other residential properties and shall not require a vehicle larger than a step-type van.
- Businesses shall not generate noise, vibration, smoke, dust, odor, heat or glare detectable beyond the property lines.
- Signs are prohibited.
- In home music instruction is exempt from these requirements.
- Automobile/engine repair, painting or bodywork are not allowed as a home business or a home occupation.
- Horticultural products grown and sold at the property are exempt from these requirements.
- Garage sales are exempt from these requirements provided that each sale lasts no more than 4 consecutive days with a maximum of 3 garage sales per calendar year.
- There may be other State or Federal requirements that pertain to your business such as a sales tax license or DBA license. You are responsible for all other regulations.

Please contact us if you have any questions about Home Occupations, Home Businesses or to obtain additional applications or information. We can be reached at 616-355-1330 or cns@cityofholland.com