

# City of Fitchburg Household Occupations

## Things to Know About a Business in Your Home

### Household Occupations

The Fitchburg zoning code defines household occupations as “limited vocational activities.” They are allowed as part of a residential occupancy and additional permits - unless otherwise noted - are not required, provided you meet certain standards.

Please review these carefully if you are thinking of a household occupation. These are the City of Fitchburg’s standards; landlords may have additional rules or prohibitions. There may also be deed restrictions within your subdivision that will affect your ability to engage in a household occupation. The city does not enforce deed restrictions. Your neighborhood association president, or your realtor, may provide a copy of subdivision deed restrictions.

Complaints typically arise from neighbors when the city’s standards are being abused or exceeded, and if complaints persist, you may have to discontinue your household occupation.

In addition to these specific standards, all other general zoning district requirements remain in effect.

#### City standards for household occupations are:

- a. The activity must be clearly secondary and incidental to residential use.
- b. The activity must not significantly alter the residential character on the dwelling unit, dwelling structure or the parcel.
- c. The activity must not unreasonably interfere with residential occupancy of other parcels in the neighborhood.
- d. The activity must not create environmental, safety or health hazards such as noise, lights, odors, vibrations, electrical emissions, or other fire or safety hazards that are noticeably out of character with those produced by normal residential occupancy.
- e. Traffic generated by the vocational activity may not exceed that which is customary to residential occupancies in the neighborhood.
- f. Signage for the vocational activity will be governed by the sign ordinance. Home occupation signs cannot exceed three (3) square feet and must be attached to the residential building.
- g. The parcel and structure must contain adequate area to accommodate the vocational activity without interfering with residential occupancy of other parcels in the neighborhood.

- h. Garage sales as a type of household occupation are allowable in all residential districts provided that not more than two are held on a single premises per year and that each such sale shall not exceed four days in duration.

### **Day Care**

Day care is allowable as a household occupation on residential premises, however, there are limitations to the number of children allowed, and the operator may need to meet certain State of Wisconsin requirements. If the number of children cared for exceeds eight (8), a conditional use permit, rezoning or State of Wisconsin permit may be required. If you are thinking of starting a home day care business, please contact the Planning/Zoning department to discuss the necessary requirements.