



Catawba County Planning and Parks
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**CAN I OPERATE A BUSINESS IN MY HOME?
HOME OCCUPATION
(See UDO Section 44-615)**

The Catawba County Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) allows certain businesses to be operated from your home. The home-based business will need to be either all or part of the livelihood of the person(s) living in the home. Home occupations are permitted in all residential areas in Catawba County's zoning jurisdiction.

Examples of home occupations are as follows:

- Computer programming;
- Catering, Cooking and baking;
- Direct marketing enterprises;
- Dressmaking, sewing and tailoring;
- Electronic equipment repair and maintenance;
- Employment services;
- Hair salons – may include only nail salon and tanning bed(s) only as accessory uses;
- Home crafts, such as weaving, jewelry making, or pottery;
- Housekeeping and janitorial services;
- Lawn care services;
- Management of companies and enterprises;
- Painting and sculpting;
- Printing and related support activities;
- Professional services, technical services, and health care professional services;
- Real estate, rental or leasing;
- Specialty trade-contractor offices, where services are provided off site (including but not limited to plumbing, electrical, and general contracting);
- Taxidermy;
- Telephone answering service;
- Travel Agency;
- Tutoring or instruction of no more than 4 students at a time; and
- Woodcarving.

Steps to follow to obtain a permit to operate a home based business:

- (1) Check with a representative of the Catawba County Planning Department to see if the business you are proposing would be considered a home occupation.

You may contact the Catawba County Planning Department at 828-465-8380, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or email us at planning@catawbacountync.gov.

Some of the standards that apply to a home occupation are:

- i. The business does not change the appearance of the home.
 - ii. The business occupies no more than 25% of floor area of your house.
 - iii. The business may have 1 employee that does not live in the home.
 - iv. A sign is allowed up to 4 square feet in area and 4 feet in height.
 - v. The business cannot generate more than 2 customer vehicles at any time.
- (2) If the proposed business is considered a home occupation, you will need to make an [application for a zoning permit](#) for a home occupation.
 - (3) Obtain a zoning permit from the Planning Department. You may reach the Planning Department by phone at 828-465-8380, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or email at planning@catawbacountync.gov.
 - (4) Submit an [application for a septic tank permit and well permit](#) to the Catawba County Permit Center, if needed. If you have questions you may call the Permit Center at 828-465-8399, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or email at permit_center@catawbacountync.gov.
 - (5) Submit an [application for a building permit](#) to the Catawba County Permit Center, if needed. If you have questions you may call the Permit Center at 828-465-8399, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or email at permit_center@catawbacountync.gov.

If you have questions concerning home occupations, where they may be located or obtaining a permit for your property, please call the Catawba County Planning Department at 828-465-8380, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or email us at planning@catawbacountync.gov. Please know that we are here to assist you throughout the process.

The purpose of this information sheet is to assist you with the process of obtaining permits and approvals associated with the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). Before proceeding with any project or spending any funds, you are strongly encouraged to contact staff of the Catawba County Planning Department at 828-465-8380, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or email us at planning@catawbacountync.gov to insure awareness of all options that may exist as well as the most effective way of accomplishing a particular project.

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