

Operating a Home-Based Business

Gwinnett County has adopted an ordinance (regulations) to protect neighborhood character, safety, and residential property values while still allowing low-impact home-based businesses. Operating a business from your home can impact your neighbors and community in several ways:

- Increases traffic and on-street parking in the neighborhood, which can restrict school buses, mail delivery, emergency vehicle response, and daily traffic flow.
- Business signs, equipment, and machinery create visual clutter, making the neighborhood look less attractive, which tends to reduce property values.
- Equipment and machinery can be noisy and disturb the neighborhood.

Plan of Action:

- Check with Gwinnett County Planning & Development to determine whether your business qualifies for your residential property: 678.518.6000
- Contact Gwinnett County Licensing & Revenue Office to ensure you have obtained all the required business licenses and permits for your business: 678.377.4100

Ensure that your business follows the regulations listed in the ordinance (below). Remove any exterior evidence of your business:

- Business signage is prohibited
- Employees, customers, or clients cannot come to your property
- No storage of materials or equipment
- No oversized commercial vehicles, and only 1 business vehicle

What does the ordinance say about Home Occupation (UDO 230-130.3.S):

In addition to obtaining a Business License (18-20), operating a business within the dwelling of the home must meet the following requirements:

1. Only family members residing in the home can conduct the home-based business.
2. No sale of product or service can occur on or adjacent to the home without a Special Use Permit.
3. The home occupation shall not involve group instruction or group assembly of people on premises.
4. There shall be no exterior evidence of a business. No business activity or signage. The business shall be conducted only within the enclosed living area of the home (basement included). There shall be no display or storage of products, materials, or machinery on the exterior of the home.
5. There shall be no increase or decrease in the normal flow of traffic. There shall be no increase in on-street or off-street parking.
6. No equipment, supplies, or materials may be utilized or stored in the conduct of the home occupation except that which is normally used for purely domestic or household purposes. Samples, however, may be kept on the premises but neither sold nor distributed from the residence.
7. No more than 25% of the home may be used for the business.
8. One business vehicle used exclusively by the resident is permissible. This vehicle may only be an automobile, pick-up truck, van, or sport-utility vehicle.

Learn more at
GwinnettCodeEnforcement.com
 or 770.513.5020

