

**Purpose:**

The purpose of accessory dwellings is to create new housing units while preserving the look and scale of detached one-family dwelling neighborhoods. Accessory dwellings may:

1. Allow more efficient use of the City's existing housing stock and infrastructure
2. Provide a mix of housing types that responds to changing family needs and household sizes
3. Provide a means for residents, particularly seniors, single parents, and couples, to remain in their homes and neighborhoods, and obtain extra income, security, companionship and services
4. Promote preservation of historic housing stock by creating opportunities for rental income
5. Provide a broader range of accessible and more affordable housing in

**Types:**

Accessory dwellings can be created within a detached one-family dwelling by:

- a. Converting the existing living area,
- b. Finishing an existing basement or attic,
- c. Making an addition to an existing structure, or
- d. Building a new structure

Attics, basements, and some existing attached or detached garages may be converted into ADUs, provided that minimum building code requirements are met for finished living space. In unfinished areas, existing features such as ceiling heights, windows, stairs and insulation may not meet current building code requirements for finished space. These conditions could make it expensive, difficult or even impossible to change an attic, basement or garage into living space.