
ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT CONVERSION OF EXISTING DETACHED STRUCTURE

California State Government Code Section 65852.2 requires that local jurisdictions allow Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) by-right under certain mandatory development standards. Any subsequent revisions to Government Code Section 65852.2 or adoption of a local ordinance will govern.

This Information Bulletin is intended to provide guidance to applicants on **prescriptive provisions** for the conversions of legally existing one-story detached structures such as garages, utility rooms, storage rooms, recreation rooms, hobby shops, accessory living quarters, etc. to ADUs. This Information Bulletin does not apply to new construction of ADUs, conversion of attached structures, removal of more than 50% of existing walls (major remodel), or conversion to ADUs accompanied with any addition or expansion. This Information Bulletin is for reference only and is not a substitute for accurate drawings prepared for each proposed construction project. Any deviation from these prescriptive provisions will require compliance with the Los Angeles Residential Code (LARC) and the Los Angeles Building Code (LABC).

Each property may be subject to site-specific conditions and additional requirements may apply. The Department of Building and Safety may request covered or concealed work to be exposed for examination prior to issuance of Certificate of Occupancy.

LA Department of Water and Power (LADWP) approval will be required if the existing structure is located in a Public Utility Easement or within 10' of a Public Utility Easement. Additional information may be found at the following link: [LADWP Encroachment Process](#).

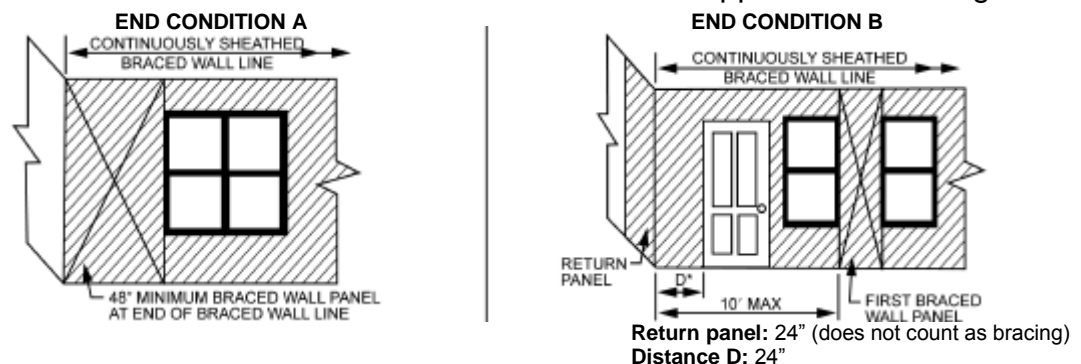
FOUNDATION

1. Exterior walls and interior bearing walls shall be supported on continuous footings.
2. Depth of footings below the natural and finished grades shall not be less than 12 inches, including footings underneath an infilled garage door opening or match existing footing depth if deeper than 12 inches. If any portion of the structure has an existing slab without any footing or is less than 12-inch in depth, the foundation shall be underpinned to a minimum of 12-inch in width and 12-inch in depth or match existing footing depth if deeper than 12 inches.
3. Minimum concrete strength for new or underpinned footings shall be 2,500 psi.
4. Existing footings are permitted to remain. New footings shall be reinforced with four ½-inch diameter deformed reinforcing bars (two bars at top of footing, two bars at bottom of footing).
5. An approved epoxy slab coating shall be applied on top of the slab if it does not have the required moisture barrier membrane. New concrete floor slabs on grade shall be placed on a 4-inch fill of coarse aggregate or on a 2-inch sand bed covered with a minimum 6 mil moisture barrier membrane.

6. Existing slabs are permitted to remain. New concrete floor slabs shall be at least 3-½ inches thick and shall be reinforced with ½-inch diameter deformed reinforcing bars. Reinforcing bars shall be spaced at maximum 16 inches on center.
7. Existing anchor bolts are permitted to remain. New anchor bolts shall be a minimum of ½-inch diameter x 10" long with 7" embedment spaced at a maximum 6 feet on center. Post-installed anchor bolts shall have an approved Los Angeles Research Report (LARR) and shall require special inspection by a deputy inspector.
8. Existing sills and sleepers are permitted to remain. New sills and sleepers on a concrete slab which is in direct contact with the ground shall be preservative-treated wood in accordance with American Wood Protection Agency (AWPA) U1.
9. Concrete foundation walls shall extend a minimum of 6 inches above the finished grade adjacent to the foundation.
10. New exterior plaster (stucco) walls shall be provided with a corrosion resistant weep screed.
11. Existing buildings located in a Methane Buffer Zone or a Methane Zone shall not be required to comply with LABC Chapter 71 Methane Mitigation, provided the existing slab remains undisturbed.

FRAMING

1. Existing wall framing may remain unless there is an increase in load of over 400 pounds (i.e. mechanical equipment). If there are no ceiling joists, ceiling joists shall be required to accommodate additional loads (i.e., ceiling drywall, lighting, and mechanical equipment). New framing or altered framing shall comply with current LARC regulations.
2. The infill walls of existing openings such as a garage door opening shall be 2x4 studs at a maximum 16 inches on center. Existing garage door headers are permitted to remain.
3. Headers for new openings in existing walls shall comply with current LARC regulations.
4. Bracing for new openings in existing walls shall comply with the following requirements. Walls with new openings shall provide a minimum total length of 10 feet of Wood Structural Panel (WSP) braced wall panels and shall meet End Condition A or B below. WSP braced wall panels shall be a minimum of 4 feet in length and shall have 15/32-inch minimum thickness with 8d common nails at 6 inch spacing along panel edges, 12 inch spacing at intermediate supports, and 3/8-inch distance to panel edge. ½-inch minimum thickness gypsum wall board shall be installed on the side of the wall opposite the bracing material.



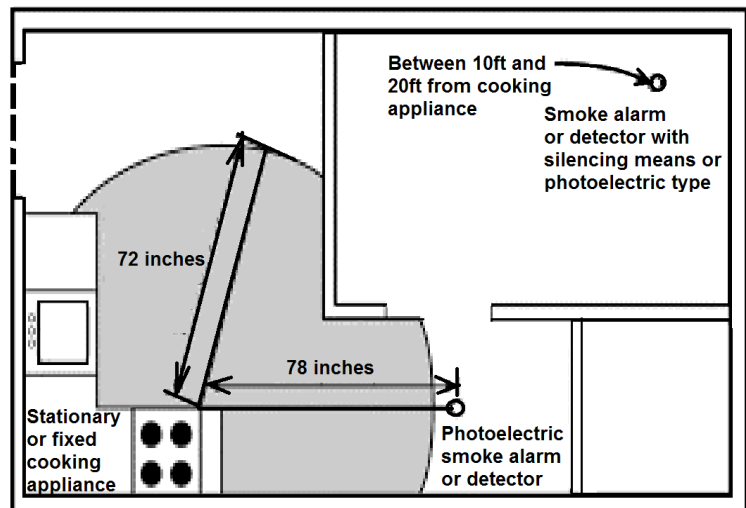
FIRE PROTECTION AND FIRE-RESISTANCE RATED CONSTRUCTION

1. Automatic residential fire sprinkler system shall not be required for the ADU conversion when the existing house does not have an automatic residential fire sprinkler system.
2. Exterior walls less than 5 feet from the property line of a non-sprinklered ADU conversion or less than 3 feet from the property line of a sprinklered ADU conversion shall be 1-hour fire-resistance rated construction. The 1-hour fire-resistance wall can be achieved by installing 5/8" type X gypsum board on the entire interior side of the wall up to the roof line.
3. No openings shall be permitted in the exterior walls of a non-sprinklered ADU conversion where the exterior wall is less than 3 feet to the property line. The area of exterior wall openings of a non-sprinklered ADU conversion located between 3 feet and 5 feet of the property line shall be limited to 25% of the wall area.
4. Smoke alarms shall be provided in each sleeping room and immediately outside of each separate sleeping area. Smoke alarms or smoke detectors shall be installed a minimum of 20 feet horizontal distance from a permanently installed cooking appliance.

Exception:

***Ionization smoke alarms** with an alarm-silencing switch or photoelectric smoke alarms shall be permitted to be installed 10 feet or greater from a permanently installed cooking appliance.*

***Photoelectric smoke alarms** shall be permitted to be installed greater than 6 feet from a permanently installed cooking appliance where the kitchen or cooking area and adjacent spaces have no clear interior partitions and the 10 foot distances would prohibit the placement of a smoke alarm or smoke detector required by other sections of the code. Smoke alarms listed for use in close proximity to a permanently installed cooking appliance.*



5. Carbon monoxide alarms shall be installed where the unit contains fuel burning appliance and shall be provided immediately outside of each separate sleeping area.

MEANS OF EGRESS AND EMERGENCY ESCAPE

1. The egress (main entry) door shall be side-hinged and shall be a minimum of 3 feet in width and 6 feet 8 inches in height. All interior doors through which occupants pass shall have a minimum width of 32 inches.
2. Emergency escape openings shall be provided from every sleeping room and shall open directly to a yard or public way. Emergency escape openings shall have a minimum clear height of 24 inches, a minimum clear width of 20 inches, and a minimum openable area of 5 square feet. The bottom of the emergency escape opening shall not be greater than 44 inches above the finished floor.

INTERIOR ENVIRONMENT

1. Habitable room shall have a floor area of not less than 70 square feet and shall not be less than 7 feet in any horizontal dimension. A minimum ceiling height of 7 feet shall be provided throughout.
2. The ADU shall provide permanent provisions for cooking, at a minimum: kitchen sink, cooktop, and refrigerator, each with 30 inches minimum clear space in front.
3. Habitable rooms shall have natural ventilation through an opening of not less than 4 percent of the room's floor area, unless a whole-house mechanical ventilation system is installed.
4. Habitable rooms shall have natural lighting through an aggregate glazing (window) area of not less than 8 percent of the room's floor area, unless an artificial lighting is installed to produce an average illumination of 6 foot-candles at a height of 30 inches above the floor in conjunction with a whole-house mechanical ventilation system.
5. The unit shall provide heating facilities capable of maintaining a room temperature of not less than 68°F at a point 3 feet above the floor and 2 feet from exterior walls. Portable space heaters shall not be used to achieve compliance with this section. [The CF1R Residential Certificate of Compliance will dictate what means of heating will be provided.]
6. The unit shall provide a separate bathroom containing a toilet, sink, and bathtub or shower. Bathrooms shall provide mechanical exhaust fans with a minimum intermittent ventilation rate of 50 cubic feet per minute. The center line of any toilet shall be located a minimum 15" from any side wall or obstruction, and a minimum 24" clear space in front of the toilet shall be provided.
7. Attics shall provide a minimum cross ventilation of 1/150 of the area of the vented space. An attic access opening shall be provided with minimum dimensions of 22 inches by 30 inches and a minimum headroom clearance of 30 inches. The attic access opening shall be located in a hallway or other readily accessible location.

ENERGY / GREEN / PLUMBING / ELECTRICAL

1. The ADU shall comply with California Building Energy Efficiency Standards (Title 24). The CF1R Residential Certificate of Compliance shall be attached to the plans. If the CF1R requires Home Energy Rating System (HERS) field verification, the CF1R shall be registered with a certified HERS provider.
2. The ADU shall comply with applicable Los Angeles Green Building Code requirements. At a minimum, Green Building Code Forms GRN 1, GRN 11, GRN 14, and GRN 16 shall be attached to the plans.
3. Detached ADU shall have an independent connection with a public or private sewer.
4. The ADU shall have a separate water shut off valve, accessible in the unit.
5. The ADU shall require a separate electrical panel.