



County of San Diego, Planning & Development Services  
**WET BAR LIMITATIONS**  
*ZONING DIVISION*

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## **REQUIRED DESIGN LIMITATIONS FOR APPROVAL OF A WET BAR**

Any portion of a design or structure that exceeds these limitations shall be considered a kitchen and not a wet bar.

A kitchen is defined as: “Any room used, or intended or designed to be used, for cooking or the preparation of food, including any room having a sink and either a 3/4 inch gas opening or provision for an electric stove.”

If staff determines the area is a kitchen: the area and the surrounding area of the structure shall be considered a dwelling unit and shall be required to comply with all applicable zoning regulations.

A wet bar must be designed in compliance with all stated limitations and plans noted appropriately so that during plan check the wet bar is easily identified.

### **WET BAR DESIGN LIMITATIONS:**

1. Only one wet bar may be allowed in a dwelling.
2. Counter surfaces and wall cabinets shall not exceed 10 feet in total length. This counter size standard shall apply to pool houses, etc. and to dwelling rooms that are distant, or isolated, from the main living area of a home.
3. Only one single-basin sink is allowed; maximum length of 18 inches with a maximum 1.5 inch drain.
4. Only one compact refrigerator, freezer or ice maker with a maximum capacity of 5 cubic feet is allowed, if designed for placement under a counter and so installed.
5. No gas or 220 volt AC power outlets are allowed in the vicinity of the wet bar.
6. No other appliance, including but not limited to, stove, range, dishwasher, microwave, garbage disposal or trash compactor, used for the preparation of food shall be located within or near a wet bar.
7. A wet bar is not allowed in a garage, carport, storage building, workshop, hobby shop, barn, agricultural building, or other similar detached non-habitable accessory structure.
8. A wet bar may be allowed in a recreation room/structure as long as the recreation room/structure is not designed so that it could easily result in an unpermitted additional dwelling unit.