



County of San Diego, Planning & Development Services
**APPLICANT'S GUIDE TO AN
ADMINISTRATIVE PERMIT FOR OVERSIZED
ACCESSORY STRUCTURE**
ZONING DIVISION

This guide provides information on how to apply for an Administrative Permit for an Oversized Accessory Structure. Review the attached Zoning Ordinance excerpts to determine where and under what restrictions, these structures are allowed. Please be sure to read all of the information in this guide and the associated Permit Coversheet.

PERMIT APPLICATIONS AND PERMIT COVERSHEETS: Discretionary Permit Applications are listed on this webpage: <http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/zoning/ZoningPermits.html>. Each link opens a specific Permit Coversheet that provides important information on fees and deposits, links to forms, specific instructions and submittal requirements for that Permit Application. We suggest that you refer to these Permit Coversheets frequently when preparing and/or applying for a permit as they are regularly updated.

PART I: FORMS AND DOCUMENTS

Please refer to the Permit Coversheet at the webpage above which is listed under "ADMINISTRATIVE PERMITS". The direct link to the Permit Coversheet is also listed below for your convenience.

https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/pds/zoning/formfields/PDS-PLN-ESUB_AD_Standard.pdf

PART II: PLOT PLANS

PLOT PLANS: All plot plans must contain the information listed on PDS-090 ([Minimum Plot Plan Information](#)). In addition, include any other information which may be pertinent to your specific request. Note: Plot Plan enlargements or reductions will not be accepted.

EXCERPTS FROM THE ZONING ORDINANCE OVERSIZED ACCESSORY STRUCTURES

Section 4842:

SETBACKS FOR DETACHED ACCESSORY BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

- a. No detached accessory building shall be located with walls closer than 3 feet or eaves closer than 2 feet from interior side or rear property lines.
- b. No detached accessory building authorized by Section 6156.g exceeding 1,000 square feet in area shall be located within a required setback pursuant to Section 4810.
- c. The combined area of all detached accessory buildings authorized by Section 6156.g, having any portion within the required setback pursuant to Section 4810, shall not exceed 1,000 square feet.

Section 6156 a, g and h:

- a. **ATTACHED PRIVATE GARAGES AND CARPORTS, STORAGE BUILDINGS, WORKSHOPS, HOBBY SHOPS, AND OTHER SIMILAR NON-HABITABLE USES**
 1. The total area allowed on a lot shall be limited to 25% of the living area of principal residence, or as follows, whichever is greater:

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Lot Size (gross)	Att. Accessory Structure area
< 1 ac	1,000 sf
1 ac - <2 ac	1,500 sf
2 ac - <4 ac	2,000 sf
4 ac or larger	3,000 sf

2. If the portion of the structure in which the attached garage or carport is located is more than one story in height, that portion not used for the shelter or storage of vehicles shall be designed and used as an integral part of the principal residence or approved habitable use such as guest living quarters.
3. Additional area may be permitted by issuance of an Administrative Permit with notice provided pursuant to Section 7060c. and findings pursuant to Section 7358, subsections a. 1, 3, 5, and 6.
4. For properties on which more than one detached residence is allowed per legal lot pursuant to Section 4310 (not including a Second Dwelling Unit pursuant to subsection x.), the total attached garage area, based upon lot size, per a.1 above, shall be allowed for each residence.

g. DETACHED PRIVATE GARAGES AND CARPORTS, STORAGE BUILDINGS, WORKSHOPS, HOBBY SHOPS, BARNs, AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS AND OTHER SIMILAR NON-HABITABLE USES (non-business purposes). Only one electric service drop and one electric meter to serve both the main dwelling and structure allowed by this subsection will be permitted.

1. The total area of all detached accessory structures shall be limited to 25% of the living area of the principal residence, or as follows, whichever is greater:

Lot Size (gross)	Det. Accessory Structures in all Res, Ag & S92 Zones (formerly 6156.g and 6156.h)
< 1/2 ac	1,450 sf <i>(only in zones subject to a Residential Use Regulation and in the S88 Use Regulations where residential uses occur)</i>
< 1 ac	2,000 sf
1 ac - <2 ac	3,000 sf
2 ac - <4 ac	4,000 sf
4 ac - <8 ac	5,600 sf
8 ac - <12 ac	6,400 sf
12 ac - <16 ac	7,200 sf
16 ac or more	8,000 sf

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(Note that detached accessory structures are subject to setbacks specified in Section 4842. Buildings not meeting the setback requirement of Section 4842 are limited to a combined area of 1000 square feet.)

Buildings proposed in the S88 Use Regulations shall conform to the requirements of any applicable Specific Plan.

2. Limited to one story not to exceed 12 feet maximum height. May have 2 stories and a height not exceeding 24 feet if the accessory structure meets the main building setbacks. If the structure is more than one story in height, that portion not used for the shelter or storage of vehicles shall be designed and used as habitable space defined by Section 6156.b or other approved use such as a guest living quarters.
3. Additional area, height and story may be permitted by issuance of an Administrative Permit with notice provided pursuant to Section 7060c. and findings pursuant to Section 7358, subsections a. 1, 3, 5, and 6. The Administrative Permit shall not authorize height/stories exceeding the height/story limit specified by the applicable height/story designator. The Administrative Permit shall not authorize reductions to required setbacks. Reductions to setbacks shall be subject to Section 7100, Variances.
4. A barn or agricultural building is not considered an animal enclosure. Therefore the animal enclosure area on a property is not included in the calculation of total barn square footage. A barn used as part of a commercial Horse Stable use is not considered an accessory structure for purposes of this section and therefore not included in or limited by this section.

h. BARN AND AGRICULTURAL STORAGE BUILDINGS: see 6156.g.

Section 7060c and d

c. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS

Notice to Property Owners. The applicant shall provide notice materials (as specified by the Director) with the permit application which shall be used by the Department to notify property owners within 500 feet of the exterior boundaries of the subject lot, with a minimum of 20 different owners, of the receipt of said application. Additional notification is required by subsections e., g. and h.

d. PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing shall not be held unless the administering agency determines that such hearing would be in the best interest of the County, or if required by applicable sections of the Zoning Ordinance where a hearing is requested by the applicant or other affected person.

Section 7358 a.1, 3, 5 and 6

- a. That the location, size, design and operating characteristics of the proposed use will be compatible with adjacent uses, residents, buildings or structures with consideration given to:
 1. harmony in scale, bulk, coverage and density,
 2. the availability of public services,
 3. the harmful effect, if any, upon desirable neighborhood character,



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4. the suitability of the site for the type and intensity of use or development which is proposed and
5. any other relevant impact of the proposed use.

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