



Residential Accessory Living Quarters (ALQs)

An Accessory Living Quarter (ALQ) is a separate residential accessory structure that can be used for the occupant or persons employed on the premises, or for temporary use by guests of the occupant. Such quarters do not include a kitchen for the preparation or storage of food and are not used as a separate dwelling unit.

Apply On-Line at [MyBuildingPermit.com](https://www.kingcounty.gov/MyBuildingPermit.com)
Select: King County | Building | Single Family Residential | Accessory Dwelling Unit



An ALQ may be attached or detached but is not considered to be a separate dwelling space used for long-term rentals (See [ADU Bulletin](#)). This residential accessory structure can provide flexibility for property owners allowing for extra overflow space from the single-family residence for the use of guests, family, property owner or temporary use of workers employed on site. It may be heated and contain a bathroom or bedroom, but a kitchen is not permitted. To verify if your property meets the requirements to construct an ALQ, please speak with KC DLS Permitting Staff or review King County Development Standards, governed by [KCC Title 21A](#), as follows:

Development Standards, per KCC Title 21A.08.030 B.7. a.b.:

1. ALQ's are limited to one per lot.
2. Only allowed on lots of three thousand two hundred square feet or greater when located in the urban area or a rural town.
3. Shall not exceed the base height as established in K.C.C. 21A.12.030.
4. Shall not exceed one thousand square feet of heated floor area and one thousand square feet of unheated floor area; and
5. Are not allowed in the F zone.

Permits

The construction of an ALQ may require public health approval, which will be reviewed in the same manner as any residential structure. Please review the link pertaining to [On-Site Sewage System \(OSS\)](#) and other associated links below.

Residential Accessory Living Quarters (ALQ's), continued

Additional Information or Questions

- Find available customer service options on our website: King County Department of Local Services, Permitting Division [Permits - King County](#)

Additional Resources

- King County [Department of Local Services, Permitting Division](#)
- [Property Research Guide](#) and [Property Research and Maps](#)
- [Residential, New Single Family Construction Packet](#)
- [Permit Fees](#)
- [King County Code](#)