

Zoning Administrator  
Permitting and Inspection Department  
City of Portland  
389 Congress Street  
Portland, Maine 04101

Dear Zoning Administrator:


I am requesting a permit to allow me the use of my residence at 194 Spring Street, Apartment 1, for a home occupation. I intend to serve as a knife and other associated cutlery sharpener for general residents, food service professionals, and outdoor enthusiasts in the Portland and greater Portland area. In effect my services will be small appliance repair, an acceptable home occupation listed under item (25) of Section 14-410(b) of the Portland Zoning Ordinance. The following is an explanation of how my home occupation meets the criteria listed under item (a) of the same.

1. My home occupation will occupy approximately 63 square feet (10.7%) of floor area of the residence, and approximately 50 square feet (14%) of the floor area in the basement.
2. No good will be stored displayed or be visible from outside the residence.
3. Storage of the material necessary to perform my occupation are minimal and included in the 63 and 50 square feet of floor space mentioned above.
4. Any signs shall be limited to one (1) non illuminated sign not exceeding a total area of two (2) square feet, affixed to the building and not projecting more than one (1) foot beyond the building.
5. No exterior alterations to the residence are necessary.
6. Since I will not be meeting clients at my residence, no additional parking is necessary.
7. The method of Japanese whetstone sharpening utilizes standard tap water to lubricate the action of either man-made (synthetic) or natural stones with the gentle abrasion of the metal cutlery instrument being sharpened. The small and simple setup is self contained in a tub of water which catches any particulate. It therefore does not produce any offensive noise, vibration, smoke, dust, and any particulate matter is contained in water that is easily separated, non toxic, and can be safely disposed of in the sink or trash, nor does it produce any odorous material, heat, humidity, glare or other objectionable effects. The occasional use of a specialized belt grinder in the basement, fitted with adequate dust collection protection and a run-quiet motor, will not produce any offensive noise, vibration, smoke, dust, and any particulate matter outside the dust collector or immediate location of use, and any particulate matter can be safely contained and disposed of in the trash, nor does it produce any odorous material, heat, humidity, glare or other objectionable effects.
8. Since I will not have any employees, there will be no nonresidents within the home occupation.
9. Since I will not be meeting clients at my residence, no additional traffic will be generated by my home occupation.

10. No vehicles even nearing a gross vehicle weight of 6,000 pounds are necessary for my home occupation.

As you can see, my home occupation is a secondary and incidental use of my residence. The external activity level and impact is negligible and in keeping with the residential character of the neighborhood.

Attached you will find a copy of the floor plans showing my entire dwelling and area of the home occupation space, as well as a letter from the owner of the building granting permission to conduct a home occupation on the premises. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.



3/6/18