

The ADU Process

We are here to help you through your ADU building process. For the most accurate and up to date information, please contact your local Planning Department to discuss your project.



1 Think about what you want

Visit [Napa Sonoma ADU](#) to look at floorplans, hear from neighbors on what they built and look at photos for inspiration. You can also learn about city rules, use the [Address Look-Up Tool](#) to find out what you are eligible to build and estimate costs or rents using the [ADU Calculator](#).



2 Talk to a Professional

Get an [ADU Feasibility Consult](#) or contact your local planning department to find out in advance about any special issues with your property.



3 Make a Sketch

Make a sketch of your property, including existing home, any other structures and proposed ADU. Use the [exercises](#) on Napa Sonoma ADU to complete.



6 Prepare Application Package

Your professional team will be instrumental in preparing the Permit Application. We've included a general checklist to see what will likely include. We also recommend asking for a preapplication meeting before formally submitting plans.



5 Hire Experienced Professionals

Although you can build an ADU as an owner builder, we recommend hiring a licensed architect or designer to design your ADU and a licensed builder to construct it, or a design/build team for the entire process. Whoever you hire will help with the application process. Look at the [free ADU Workbook](#) for more information on this step and the entire process.



4 Get a Planner's Advice

Now that you have a better idea of what you want to build, bring your sketch in. A planner will advise you on what rules might apply to your proposed ADU and what to consider.



7 Submit Application Package and Pay

Share how fees are assessed, any express reviews, how and where to submit/pay including any portal links, and any documents that need to be submitted like other agency permits.



8 Get Permit Issued

Jurisdictions have up to 60 days to review your complete application. They may have comments for you and your team to respond to. Once your application is approved and fees are paid, you can collect your building permit.



9 Construct ADU

Check-in regularly with your builders or design/build team and make decisions about materials as needed. Timelines for construction vary, but 12-18 months is fairly common.



MOVE-IN!



10 Schedule and Pass Inspection

Your builder will schedule a final inspection as construction concludes. Once your ADU has passed, your ADU is ready for move-in!