

Accessory Buildings

An accessory building is defined as a building or portion of a building subordinate to and on the same lot, parcel, or building site as a principal building, and occupied by or devoted exclusively to an accessory use including, but not limited to, a private garage.



The following Q&A has key facts you need to be aware of when thinking about constructing an accessory building within an Agricultural or Residential Zoning District.

Q – Do I need a building permit for an accessory building?

A – Depends. Please contact the Building Department at 269-585-4150 for details.

Q – Where can I place my accessory building?

A – If located in the side or rear yard, Oshtemo requires a minimum 3’ setback for accessory buildings 200 Sq. Ft. or smaller. For accessory buildings over 200 Sq. Ft., Oshtemo requires a minimum 10’ setback OR a setback distance equal to the height of the building at its highest point, whichever is greater. See illustrations on the back page of this document.

Q – Can I place my accessory building in the front yard? And what if I live on a corner lot?

A – This depends on where your home is located.

- Accessory buildings on properties located within subdivisions or site condominiums cannot be located closer to the street than the front line of your home (nearest edge). See the illustration on the back page of this document.
- Accessory buildings on properties not located within a subdivision or site condominium can be placed in the front yard as long as the front yard setback for your home’s corresponding zoning district is met (outlined in Section 50.60 of the Township Ordinance). If you live on a corner, this setback applies to both streets.

Q – What size of accessory building can I build? And can I have more than one accessory building?

A – On a property within a subdivision or site condominium, the square footage of any accessory building cannot be greater than the footprint of the livable portion of the house. On all properties, whether or not it is located in a subdivision or site condominium, the combined maximum area of all accessory buildings allowed is based on the following schedule:

Property Area	Maximum cumulative square footage of all detached accessory structures on a property
1 acre or less	A maximum of 30% of the property may be covered by structures, including the home
More than 1 acre but not more than 2 acres	Combined maximum area of 2,000 Sq. Ft.
More than 2 acres but not more than 3 acres	Combined maximum area of 3,000 Sq. Ft.
More than 3 acres but not more than 5 acres	Combined maximum area of 4,000 Sq. Ft.
More than 5 acres but not more than 8 acres	Combined maximum area of 5,000 Sq. Ft.
More than 8 acres but not more than 11 acres	Combined maximum area of 6,000 Sq. Ft.
More than 11 acres	Combined maximum area of 7,000 Sq. Ft.

Q – Does the accessory building need to be a certain distance from other structures on the property?

A – Yes, Oshtemo requires a 10’ minimum wall-to-wall separation between accessory buildings and other structures on the property.

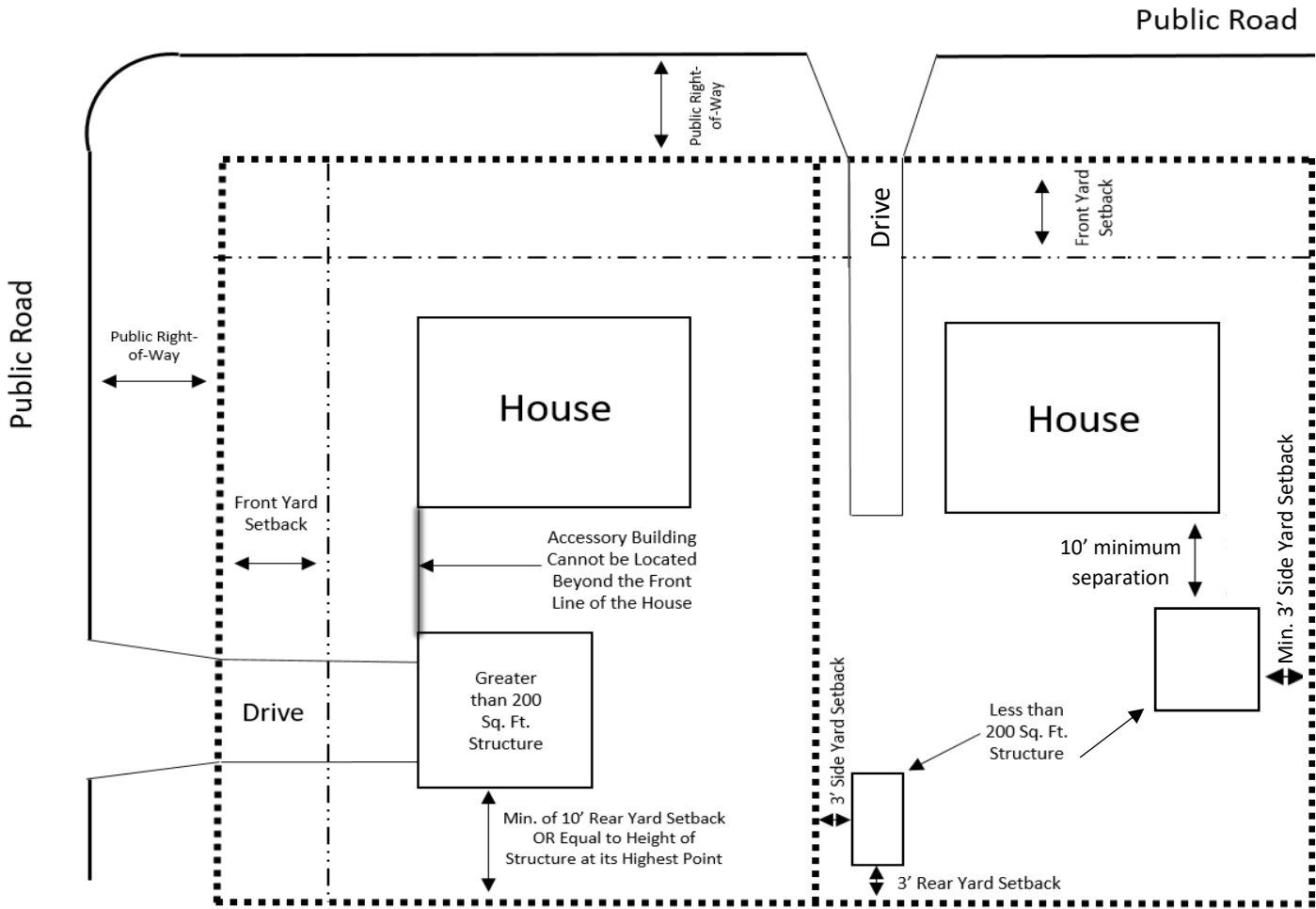
Q – How tall can the accessory building be?

A – This depends on where your home is located. If your property is located within a subdivision or site condominium, the accessory building height cannot exceed the height of your home. On unplatted parcels, the maximum height is 30’.

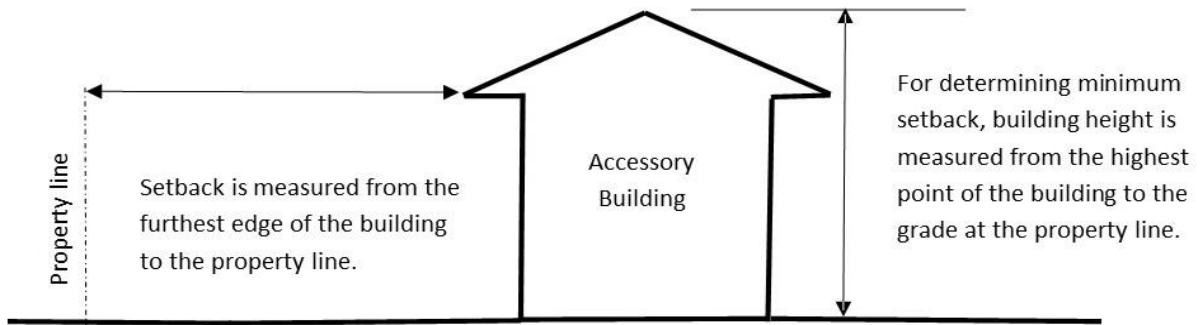
Notes:

- This is not an exhaustive outline of all requirements for accessory buildings. To find a complete copy of Ordinance Sec. 57.100: Accessory Buildings Serving a Primary Residence, please visit <http://online.encodeplus.com/regs/oshtemo-mi/doc-viewer.aspx#secid-2362>.
- If you reside in a subdivision/site condominium, please review HOA/Deed Restrictions for additional requirements.
- If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Zoning Administrator at 269-375-4260.

Diagram for Accessory Buildings



Side and Rear Yard Setbacks for Buildings over 200 Sq. Ft.



Accessory Buildings over 200 square feet in area must be setback from the side and rear property lines at least 10' or an amount equal to the building height.

For example, if the accessory building is 18' tall at the peak, it must be at least 18' from the side and rear property lines.