

Thinking About Building an ADU?

Start here. Learn the basics before beginning your project.

What Is an ADU?

An Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) is a smaller secondary home on the same property as a primary residence — one of the fastest-growing housing solutions in Massachusetts and New England.

Common Types of ADUs

- Detached backyard cottage
- Garage conversion
- Basement apartment
- Attached addition

Why Homeowners Build ADUs

- Aging parents / multigenerational
- Rental income
- Adult children returning home
- Guest housing / home office

The Typical ADU Process

- 1 Confirm Local Zoning**
Check if your municipality allows ADUs and understand rules
- 2 Evaluate Your Property**
Assess lot size, utilities, access for construction
- 3 Design the ADU**
Work with architects/designers on code-compliant plans
- 4 Secure Permits**
Submit permit applications and complete inspections
- 5 Construction**
Build with licensed, qualified professionals
- 6 Final Inspection**
Receive certificate of occupancy — your ADU is ready

Learn More About ADUs

Free educational resources on planning, design, financing, and construction.

TheADUExchange.com

