

# FAQ

1. Are there restrictions for developing or continuing the use of existing secondary suites?

Yes, there are zoning requirements. For [Zoning Bylaw 12800](#) inquiries call 780-496-3100 `begin_of_the_skype_highlighting` 780-496-3100 `end_of_the_skype_highlighting` and ask for a Development Technical Advisor. All secondary suites must have zoning approval prior to developing or continuing the use of a secondary suite.

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2. Is there funding available for upgrading or developing a secondary suite?

You may be eligible for financial assistance through the City of Edmonton [Cornerstones Plan](#). Contact the Housing Branch at 780-442-6284 `begin_of_the_skype_highlighting` 780-442-6284 `end_of_the_skype_highlighting` for further information about this program.

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3. If I have a secondary suite, how do I know if it meets building and/or fire code standards?

The [Secondary Suites Zoning Project](#) pages have that information.

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4. If I have a basement suite is it mandatory to upgrade it to the Fire Code Amendment Regulation for secondary suites?

If a homeowner has a secondary suite that was in existence prior to December 31, 2006 they are required to upgrade their suite to meet the Alberta Fire Code STANDATA 97-FCB-031 requirements.

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5. What is the City doing to address complaints about secondary suites?

If the City receives a complaint about an illegal suite, it will investigate the complaint and if a suite is confirmed, the homeowner will be advised of the options: upgrade or decommission the suite.

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6. What do the standards look for in terms of safety?

Primary considerations relate to ensuring the existing plumbing and heating systems can support an additional suite, fire prevention and protection in terms of smoke alarms, exit

routes, fire separation, and structural requirements like minimum ceiling height and window sizes.