
Spring Cleaning with Acworth Community Development



As you sit down to catch your breath after the marathon of holiday and Super Bowl festivities, you suddenly realize that your decorations have multiplied exponentially while your storage space has shrunk. As you ponder where to store your inflatable football goals, an idea comes to you. While your house is busting at the seams with party necessities, you still have a lot of unused space right out your back door. It would be relatively easy to put in a small accessory structure in your back yard to make more room in the house for more party supplies, ~~er~~, space for the family.

Before throwing that newly-purchased storage unit up in your back yard, there are a few things you need to check first. First, any new residential accessory structure must be located in the side or rear yard and must be at least ten feet off the property lines. Secondly, if you have purchased the Taj Mahal of storage buildings, contact the Acworth Building Department as they require a permit for all accessory buildings 120 square feet or larger.

For those who decide to go for the gusto and build an addition to the home, there are also things to consider. Before applying for a permit for your new room, it is important to verify that your home's new footprint remains inside the required space between the property lines and structure. Every zoning district requires these spaces, known as "setbacks," and they can be found online at www.acworth.org/departments/cdevelopment/ under "Zoning Ordinance." Not sure which zoning district you are in? You can also find a color-coordinated "Zoning Map" online as well. If you still have questions, you can contact the Community Development Department at 770-974-3112 for further assistance.

Also, don't forget to check with your neighborhood HOA for any covenant restrictions or processes for approval that you may need to go through as well.