



PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

BUILDING & SAFETY DIVISION

809 Center St. Rm 101, Santa Cruz, CA 95060



AB2533 Plan Requirements

The State of California has created an assembly bill to assist homeowners in bringing existing unpermitted ADUs/JADUs into compliance. The primary goal of AB 2533 is to allow for the legalization of existing ADUs and JADUs by focusing on imminent health and safety issues, rather than full compliance with the building codes in effect at the time of original construction.

This checklist is designed to guide an applicant through the necessary submittal documents and plan requirements to ensure a complete application.

Required Application Documents & Forms

[Building Permit Application](#): A completed City of Santa Cruz building permit application form.

- [AB 2533 Substandard Housing Checklist](#): A completed and signed "City of Santa Cruz AB2533 Substandard Housing Checklist." This form is mandatory and documents the property owner's self-certification of compliance with health and safety standards.

You will need to hire a licensed contractor of your choice to assess the ADU/JADU and complete the checklist. The contractor will evaluate the unit's habitability, including sanitation, heating, ventilation, and safety features, to ensure compliance with Health and Safety Code 17920.3.

- **Letter of Intent**: A letter from the property owner stating the intent to legalize an existing ADU or JADU under the provisions of AB 2533, including the approximate date the unit was constructed.

Plan Set Requirements: The plans should be clear, legible, and provide sufficient detail to demonstrate the existing conditions and any proposed corrections.

1. **Cover Sheet**: Include project address, Assessor's Parcel Number (APN), owner information, scope of work referencing intent to legalize under AB2533, and a summary of applicable codes.
2. **Site Plan (to scale)**:
 - Show property lines, dimensions, and total lot area.
 - Indicate the location and dimensions of all structures on the property, including the primary residence, the ADU/JADU, garages, sheds, etc.



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- Clearly label the primary residence and the ADU/JADU.
- Show dimensions of setbacks from the ADU/JADU to all property lines and the distance between the ADU/JADU and the primary residence. [Santa Cruz Municipal Code 24.16.140]
- Indicate the location of all utility connections (water, sewer/septic, gas, electric).
- 3. Floor Plan (to scale):**
 - Provide a fully dimensioned floor plan of the ADU/JADU.
 - Label the use of all rooms (e.g., living, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom).
 - Show locations of all doors and windows, including sizes.
 - Show locations of all plumbing fixtures (sinks, toilet, shower), kitchen appliances, and mechanical equipment (water heater, furnace).
- 4. Elevations:** Provide exterior elevations of the ADU/JADU, showing doors, windows, and exterior finishes.
- 5. Health, Safety, and Code Compliance Checklist:** The plans must explicitly demonstrate compliance with the following health and safety standards, which are the primary focus of AB 2533 review. The unit will be inspected for these items.
 - **Substandard Conditions Verification:** The plans and the completed checklist must affirm that none of the following substandard conditions exist, as defined in California [Health & Safety Code Section 17920.3](#):
 - **Inadequate Sanitation:** Lack of hot and cold running water, a functional toilet, or a functional tub/shower.
 - **Structural Hazards:** No significant structural issues such as failing foundations, hazardous flooring, or defective support members are to be shown on plan.
 - **Faulty Wiring/Electrical:** No exposed, unapproved, or hazardous electrical wiring. All outlets and fixtures must be shown on the plan.
 - **Faulty Plumbing:** No leaking pipes or unapproved plumbing installations.
 - **Defective Mechanical Equipment:** The heating system must be functional and properly vented.
 - **Weather Protection:** The roof and walls must provide adequate weather protection with no significant leaks.
 - **Fire Hazard:** The unit must be free of fire hazards. If attached, show details of the required one-hour fire separation between the ADU/JADU and the primary residence.



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- **Inadequate Egress:** Every sleeping room must have a compliant emergency escape and rescue opening (e.g., a window of the proper size and height from the floor). Show this on the floor plan with dimensions.
- **Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Alarms:** The floor plan must show the location of interconnected, hardwired SMOKE ALARM with battery backup. They are required in each sleeping room, in the hallway or area outside sleeping rooms, and on each level. The floor plan must show the location of carbon monoxide alarm outside of each sleeping area and on every level of the unit.

JADU-Specific Requirements [Santa Cruz Municipal Code 24.16.170]

If legalizing a JUNIOR ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT (JADU), the plans must also demonstrate:

- **Maximum Size:** The unit does not exceed 500 square feet.
- **Location:** The unit is contained entirely within the walls of the existing primary residence (which can include an attached garage).
- **Kitchenette:** A cooking facility with appliances, a counter, and storage cabinets is provided.
- **Entrance:** A separate exterior entrance is provided.
- **Bathroom:** The unit may share sanitation facilities with the primary residence, but if so, it must have an interior connecting door.