

Article 12 Definitions

12.1 General.

12.1.1 Common Meaning

- A. All words and terms used have their commonly accepted and ordinary meaning unless they are specifically defined in this Chapter or the context in which they are used clearly indicates to the contrary.
- B. In the absence of court decisions or Zoning Board of Appeals decisions specifically interpreting a provision in question, specific definitions listed in this Chapter or previous interpretations of a provision by the Commissioner of Inspectional Services, the meaning of provisions shall be based on the following general hierarchy of sources:
 - 1. For a legal term, definitions in a legal dictionary or if not a legal term, definitions in an ordinary dictionary;
 - 2. Statements of the purpose and intent of particular sections, although such statements cannot overrule a specific code provision;
 - 3. Minutes of discussions of legislative or advisory bodies considering adoption of the provision in question;
 - 4. Definitions of similar terms contained in Federal and State statutes and regulations; and
 - 5. Ordinary rules of grammar.
- C. When vagueness or ambiguity is found to exist as to the meaning of any word or term used, any appropriate canon, maxim, principle or other technical rule of interpretations or construction used by the courts of this state may be employed to resolve vagueness and ambiguity in language.

12.1.2 Abbreviations.

AMI	Area Median Income
ANR	Approval Not Required
Bldg Ht	Building Height
DHCD	Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development
DNA	Deoxyribaneucleic Acid
DPH	Massachusetts Department of Public Health
CCTV	Closed-Circuit Television
CMR	Code of Massachusetts Regulations
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
GIS	Geographic Information System
HUD	United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
MWRA	Massachusetts Water Resource Authority
M.G.L.	Massachusetts General Law

NIH	National Institute of Health
n/a	Not Applicable
Ord.	Ordinance
RMD	Registered Marijuana Dispensary
Sec.	Section
SF	Square Feet
SP	Special Permit
TDM	Transportation Demand Management

12.2 Defined Terms.

[Abandonment \(nonconformance\)](#) See Sec. 10.1.3

[Accessory Apartments](#) See Sec. 9.2.14

[Accessory Art Structures](#) See Sec. 4.3.5

[Accessory Athletic Structures](#) See Sec. 4.3.5

[Accessory Bicycle Parking Spaces](#) See Sec. 8.1.3

[Accessory Buildings](#) See Sec. 3.3.5, 4.3.4

[Accessory Parking Spaces](#) See Sec. 8.1.2

[Accessory Sign](#) See Sec. 8.2.3

[Accessory Structures](#) See Sec. 3.3.4, 4.3.5, 6.3.4

[Accessory Yard Signs](#) See Sec. 8.2.9

[Adult Day Care Center](#) See Sec. 9.2.5

[Adult Entertainment](#) See Sec. 9.2.13

[Animal Services](#) See Sec. 9.2.5

[Apartment House](#) See Sec. 3.2.8

[Artisan Production](#) See Sec. 9.2.3

[Arts Exhibition](#) See Sec. 9.2.3

[Arts, Sales & Services](#) See Sec. 9.2.3

[Assemblage](#) See Sec. 3.5.4, 4.5.1

[Assembly & Entertainment](#) See Sec. 9.2.5

[Average Ground Level](#) See Sec. 2.6.2

[Awning](#) See Sec. 6.3.2

[Balcony](#) See Sec. 3.3.2

[Banking & Financial Services](#) See Sec. 9.2.5

[Bay](#) See Sec. 3.3.2, 4.3.2, 6.3.2

[Bed & Breakfast](#) See Sec. 9.2.8

[Best Management Practices \(BMP\)](#) See Sec. 8.3.2

[Bicycle Racks](#) See Sec. 8.1.3

Bike Lockers See Sec. 8.1.3
Blade Signs See Sec. 8.2.8
Blank Wall Area See Sec. 2.7.3
Bounding Box See Sec. 3.3.4
Box Building See Sec. 6.2.6
Broadcast/Recording Studio See Sec. 9.2.5
Building & Home Repair Services See Sec. 9.2.5
Building Footprint See Sec. 2.5
Building/Home Supplies & Equipment See Sec. 9.2.12
Business Support Services See Sec. 9.2.5
By-Right See Sec. 11.1.2
Campus/Institutional District See Sec. 6.1.7
Canopy Signs See Sec. 8.2.8
Car Share & Bike Share See Sec. 9.2.14
Casualty (nonconformance) See Sec. 10.1.3
Caterer/Wholesale Food Production See Sec. 9.2.5
Centralized Parking See Sec. 8.1.7
Child Day Care Center See Sec. 9.2.5
Civic Building See Sec. 3.2.14, 4.2.13, 6.2.8
Commercial Dry Cleaning & Laundry Services See Sec. 9.2.7
Commercial Kennel See Sec. 9.2.5
Commercial Parking See Sec. 8.1.2
Commercial Vehicle Parking See Sec. 9.2.14
Commercial Vehicle Repair & Maintenance See Sec. 9.2.9
Community Center See Sec. 9.2.4
Community Gardening See Sec. 9.2.11
Community Notice Boards See Sec. 8.2.9
Community or Group Residence See Sec. 9.2.2
Consumer Goods See Sec. 9.2.12
Corner Lot See Sec. 2.2.2
Courtyard Cluster See Sec. 3.5.3
Co-Working See Sec. 9.2.10
Cross Gable See Sec. 3.3.3, 4.3.3, 6.3.3
Data Center & Telecommunications See Sec. 9.2.7
Day Care Service See Sec. 9.2.5
Development or Development Project.
Development Review Application See Sec. 11.2.1

Development Review. See Sec. 4.1.1, 9.1.1
Dispatch Service See Sec. 9.2.9
Dormer See Sec. 3.3.3, 4.3.3, 6.3.3
Dormitory or Chapter House See Sec. 9.2.2
Drive-through Business Structures See Sec. 4.3.5
Driveways See Sec. 8.1.4
Educational Institution See Sec. 9.2.5
Fabrication Building See Sec. 4.2.12, 6.2.2
Fabrication District See Sec. 6.1.4
Farmer/Vendor Market See Sec. 9.2.12
Farming See Sec. 9.2.11
Fenestration See Sec. 2.7.1
Flat Roof See Sec. 2.6.3
Food Trucks See Sec. 9.2.14
Formula Eating and/or Drinking Establishment See Sec. 9.2.6
Formula Retail See Sec. 9.2.12
Free-standing Signs See Sec. 8.2.8
Fresh Food Market or Grocery Store See Sec. 9.2.12
Front elevation See Sec. 2.2.1, 2.7.1
Front Lot Line See Sec. 2.2.1
Front Porch See Sec. 3.3.2
Frontage Buildout See Sec. 2.3.6
Funeral Home See Sec. 9.2.5
Gable Roof See Sec. 2.6.3
Gambling See Sec. 9.2.13
Garage See Sec. 3.4.2
Gasoline Station See Sec. 9.2.9
General Commercial Building See Sec. 6.2.1
General Office See Sec. 9.2.10
Great Ponds See Sec. 8.4.3
Ground Story See Sec. 2.6.2
Group Living. See Sec. 9.2.2
Gym or Health Club See Sec. 9.2.5
Health Care Provider See Sec. 9.2.5
Height and Massing See Sec. 2.6
Hipped Roof See Sec. 2.6.3
Home Business See Sec. 9.2.14

Home Day Care See Sec. 9.2.14
Homeless Shelter See Sec. 9.2.2
Hospital See Sec. 9.2.4
Hotel See Sec. 9.2.8
House A See Sec. 3.2.3
House B See Sec. 3.2.4
House C See Sec. 3.2.5
House D See Sec. 3.2.6
Impermeable Surfaces See Sec. 8.3.2
Interior Lot See Sec. 2.2.2
Lab Building See Sec. 4.2.11, 6.2.7
Large Multi-Use Building See Sec. 4.2.8
Lined Garage See Sec. 4.2.10, 6.2.5
Loading Facilities See Sec. 8.1.6
Lodging House See Sec. 9.2.2
Long-Term Bicycle Parking See Sec. 8.1.3
Lot Area See Sec. 2.2.1
Lot Coverage See Sec. 2.2.1, 2.3.2
Lot Depth See Sec. 2.2.1
Lot Dimensions See Sec. 2.2.1
Lot Frontage See Sec. 2.2.1, 2.3.1
Lot See Sec. 2.2.1
Low Gable Roof See Sec. 2.6.3
Low Hipped Roof See Sec. 2.6.3
Maintenance & Repair of Consumer Goods See Sec. 9.2.5
Major Utility Use See Sec. 9.2.4
Manufacturing See Sec. 9.2.7
Medium Multi-Use Building See Sec. 4.2.7
Minor Utility Use See Sec. 9.2.4
Motor Vehicle Parking See Sec. 9.2.9
Moving & Self Storage See Sec. 9.2.7
Multi-building Assemblages See Sec. 4.5.1
Museum See Sec. 9.2.4
Neighborhood General District (N) See Sec. 3.1.5
Non-accessory directory signs See Sec. 8.2.8
Non-Accessory Sign See Sec. 8.2.3
Non-accessory Yard Signs See Sec. 8.2.9

Nonconforming Lots See Sec. 10.1.3
Nonconforming Structure See Sec. 10.1.5
Nonconforming Use See Sec. 10.1.5
Non-contextual Multi-unit Residential District See Sec. 6.1.6
Nursing Home / Assisted Living See Sec. 9.2.2
Office District See Sec. 6.1.3
Off-Site Parking See Sec. 9.2.9
On-Site Parking See Sec. 8.1.2
Outdoor Amenity Space See Sec. 2.9
Parking Lot See Sec. 8.1.4
Parking Setbacks See Sec. 2.3.4
Parking Structure See Sec. 8.1.4
Penthouse See Sec. 4.3.3, 6.3.3
Permeable or Pervious See Sec. 8.3.2
Personal Services See Sec. 9.2.5
Personal Vehicle Repair & Maintenance See Sec. 9.2.9
Pet Day Care & Training See Sec. 9.2.5
Pet Grooming See Sec. 9.2.5
Private Cemetery See Sec. 9.2.11
Private, Non-Profit Club or Lodge See Sec. 9.2.4
Projecting Front Entry See Sec. 3.3.2
Public Gathering Space See Sec. 2.10
Public Parking See Sec. 8.1.2
Public Service See Sec. 9.2.4
Public Use District See Sec. 5.1.1
Rear Lot Line See Sec. 2.2.1
Rear Lot See Sec. 2.2.2
Rear Lots See Sec. 3.5.1
Recreation District See Sec. 5.1.2
Recreation Use See Sec. 9.2.5
Regional Retail District See Sec. 6.1.5
Religious & Educational Uses Protected by M.G.L. 40A. Sec. 3 See Sec. 9.2.4
Research & Development and/or Laboratory See Sec. 9.2.10
Residence 1 District (R1) See Sec. 3.1.2
Residence 2 District (R2) See Sec. 3.1.3
Residence 3 District (R3) See Sec. 3.1.4
Residential Units Factor See Sec. 2.8

Resource Extraction See Sec. 9.2.11
Restaurant/Café See Sec. 9.2.6
Retaining Walls See Sec. 8.5
Roof Deck See Sec. 3.3.3, 4.3.3, 6.3.3
Self Storage See Sec. 9.2.7
Setback Area See Sec. 2.3.3
Setback Encroachments See Sec. 2.3.5
Setback See Sec. 2.3.3
Shared Workspaces & Arts Education See Sec. 9.2.3
Shed Roof See Sec. 2.6.3
Shop See Sec. 4.2.5, 6.2.5
Shophouse See Sec. 3.2.11, 4.2.3
Short Term Rental See Sec. 9.2.14
Short-Term Bicycle Parking See Sec. 8.1.3
Side Lot Line See Sec. 2.2.1
Sidewalk Signs See Sec. 8.2.9
Signs See Sec. 8.2.3
Single Purpose Districts See Sec. 6.1
Small Apartment Building See Sec. 3.2.10, 4.2.2
Small Multi-Use Building See Sec. 3.2.12, 4.2.6
Small Shop See Sec. 3.2.13, 4.2.4
Stormwater Management See Sec. 8.3
Story Height See Sec. 2.6.3
Tall Multi-Use Building See Sec. 4.2.9, 6.2.4
Temporary Signs See Sec. 8.2.9
Through Lot See Sec. 2.2.2
Total suspended solids (TSS) See Sec. 8.3.2
Towing Service See Sec. 9.2.9
Townhouse Section See Sec. 3.2.9
Transportation Demand Management See Sec. 8.1.8
Trash & Recycling Collection/Storage See Sec. 9.2.7
Turret See Sec. 3.3.2
Two-Stage Roof See Sec. 2.6.3
Two-Unit Residence See Sec. 3.2.7
Unbuildable Lots See Sec. 10.1.4
Unbundled Market Rate Parking See Sec. 4.7.3, 6.5
Unique Design See Sec. 4.4.1

Vault Roof See Sec. 2.6.3
Vehicle Sales See Sec. 9.2.9
Vehicle Storage & Transportation Depot See Sec. 9.2.7
Veterinarian See Sec. 9.2.5
Wall Signs See Sec. 8.2.8
Wall-mounted Display Case See Sec. 8.2.9
Waterfront Lot See Sec. 2.2.2
Wholesale Trade & Distribution See Sec. 9.2.7
Window Display See Sec. 8.2.3
Window Sign See Sec. 8.2.3
Work/Live Creative Studio See Sec. 9.2.3