



Characteristics of House Styles

This document lists conventional characteristics of common home styles. Individual houses may have elements from more than one style and not every home will have all the characteristics of a particular style. Use this document only as a guide.

2 Story

Listing Form Abbreviation: 2STORY

A two-level home with the main entrance on the lower level. Upper spaces generally hold the sleeping areas.



A-frame

Listing Form Abbreviation: A-FRAME

Has a peaked, high pitched roof line in the shape of an "A". There are many variations: one story or two, one large room serving as living quarters, main living area in the shape of an A-frame with additional rooms, etc.



Bungalow

Listing Form Abbreviation: BUNGALO

A one- to one-and-one-half story structure with a gabled roof and a porch across the front.



Cabin

Listing Form Abbreviation: CABIN

A small, one-story structure usually containing one or two rooms.



Cape Cod

Listing Form Abbreviation: CAPECOD

Has a steeply pitched gabled roof, framed as a one-story with an attic conversion giving an additional one-half story.



Chalet

Listing Form Abbreviation: CHALET

A rustic style home featuring projected roofs, large windows and raised foundation. Rough-cut lumber is used.



Colonial

Listing Form Abbreviation: COLONIL

A two-story in the traditional style, small casement windows, steeply pitched roof, may include columns across the front.



Common Wall

Listing Form Abbreviation: COMNWAL

A one- or two-story residence connected to another residence by a wall. Any style is appropriate. Owner owns only the four walls of the dwelling and not the surrounding grounds.



Country French

Listing Form Abbreviation: CONT-FR

Can be one- or two-story, formal in structure, steep hip roof, curved windows, sometimes with shutters.



Contemporary

Listing Form Abbreviation: CONTEMP

Characterized by simple, uncluttered lines with a non-traditional design.



Cottage

Listing Form Abbreviation: COTTAGE

Has a gabled roof line, but lower than the bungalow style, sash windows, and a plain front door. Front porch is either very small or non-existent.



Craftsman

Listing Form Abbreviation: CRAFTSM

Has a low pitched gabled roof with wide eaves and exposed rafters. Can be one- or two-story, with a decorative brace and full front porch.



Daylight Ranch

Listing Form Abbreviation: DAYRNCH

A rambling ranch style home with a lower level basement that is partially exposed and above ground.



Double Wide

Listing Form Abbreviation: DBL-WDE

A manufactured home that is twice as wide as a single wide manufactured home.



Dome

Listing Form Abbreviation: DOME

A ball- or sphere-like structure built with a complex network of various sizes of triangles.



Dutch Colonial

Listing Form Abbreviation: DTCHCOL

A variation of the traditional colonial style with a gambrel or mansard roof, sometimes a side wing.



English

Listing Form Abbreviation: ENGLISH

Has a steeply pitched roof, prominent cross gables and tall windows, can be half timbered.



Farmhouse

Listing Form Abbreviation: FARMHSE

Featuring simple, uncomplicated construction, most have a front porch and are two-story.



Georgian

Listing Form Abbreviation: GEORGIN

A formal square box-like structure featuring a hipped roof, decorative crown or pediment over the front door, columns on each side of the door, and/or cornice moldings.



Log

Listing Form Abbreviation: LOG

A variety of styles are available, both in pre-designed kits and as homes designed by an architect. The primary distinguishing feature of a log home is the use of logs in its construction.



Manufactured

Listing Form Abbreviation: MANUFHS

A single story dwelling constructed in a factory then transported to the home site. These can be single wide, double wide, and triple wide, and are usually constructed from metal, fiberglass, & plastics.



Mediterranean/Mission/Spanish

Listing Form Abbreviation: MED/SPAN

Can be one- or two-story with stucco siding. Wrought iron trim and arched windows are features of this style, and red tile roofs are common.



Mid-Century Modern

Listing Form Abbreviation: MIDCMOD

This style emphasized creating structures with ample windows and open floor-plans with the intention of opening up interior spaces and bringing the outdoors in. Also known as Rummer.

**Photo source: Modern Homes Portland (Marisa Swenson)*



Modular

Listing Form Abbreviation: MODULAR

Living units constructed in a factory and shipped to the building site to be erected. All home styles fall into this category. They are basically “stick built” homes and difficult to identify. Not to be confused with the “manufactured/mobile” home.

NW Contemporary

Listing Form Abbreviation: NWCONT

Old Portland (Four Square)

Listing Form Abbreviation: OLD-PDX

A very distinctive style popular around the early 20th century. A large square box with low hipped roof and a deep overhang, full porch with wide stairs. Two- to two-and-one-half stories with a large central dormer.



Prairie

Listing Form Abbreviation: PRAIRIE

Characterized by low-pitched roofs with very wide overhanging eaves, a strongly emphasized horizontality, large hearths separating parts of the living-area, and the use of traditional materials. Also known as Frank Lloyd Wright style.



Ranch

Listing Form Abbreviation: RANCH

A rambling single story, with simple construction, a large picture window, and attached garage.



Row

Listing Form Abbreviation: ROW

A two-story single family structure sharing walls with an adjacent dwelling, built in a row.



Saltbox

Listing Form Abbreviation: SALTBOX

Characterized by the distinctive sloping roof line from the top of the gable, these can plunge from two-and-one-half stories in the front to a single story in the rear.



Split Level

Listing Form Abbreviation: SPLIT

A two-story home split at the entry with one set of stairs going up and another going to the lower level. Upper level is the main living area and the lower level consists of utility, garage and/or family room.



Studio

Listing Form Abbreviation: STUDIO

A small apartment usually consisting of one main living space, a small kitchen, and a bathroom.



Townhouse

Listing Form Abbreviation: TOWNHSE

A two-story single family dwelling, part of a long and narrow structure with a similar structure adjacent, owner owns the lot as well as the structure. Exteriors may differ.



Traditional

Listing Form Abbreviation: TRAD

An open design, not holding to a classic historic detail. Often uses a variety of more than one architectural characteristic from past styles.



Tri-Level

Listing Form Abbreviation: TRI

A “raised” ranch style structure that adds a full story on one end of the typical ranch home.



Triple Wide

Listing Form Abbreviation: TRI-WDE

Manufactured home that is triple the size of a single wide manufactured home.



Tudor

Listing Form Abbreviation: TUDOR

Has a steeply pitched roof, low doors, small-paned windows, and decorative half-timbering. This style is similar to the English home.



Victorian

Listing Form Abbreviation: VICT

Usually two-stories with steep gables, ornate wood detail, Gothic style windows (pointed top) and brackets under the eaves. Some are built with a turret.



Other

Listing Form Abbreviation: OTHER

Includes any styles of dwellings that do not fit into the categories above. Houseboats, lofts, and many other styles fit in the “other” category.

