



SAINT PETERSBURG TOP 10 CODE VIOLATIONS

1 YARD MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

Yard maintenance standards are the responsibility of every property owner and include the maintenance of plant material in any right-of-way around the property. Grass type ground cover must be maintained at ten inches or less. Hedges located within 5 feet of the property line must be properly trimmed to height limits specified in the code. The branches of a tree extending over any public sidewalk, street or other public way should be trimmed to a height of no less than eight feet above the sidewalk and fourteen feet above the street. Vegetation and trees must be trimmed so as not to impair vision or obstruct the travel of motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians upon any street, sidewalk or alley.

2 JUNK AND RUBBISH/OUTDOOR STORAGE

Junk and rubbish cannot be left in the yard and must be properly disposed of. This includes junk auto parts, appliances, furniture, building materials and tires; trash such as discarded paper, cardboard, plastics, etc; and debris such as tree trimmings and fallen limbs.

Outdoor storage is prohibited. Generally, any equipment, materials, or furnishings that would ordinarily not be used outdoors may not be stored outdoors. For example, you may not keep indoor furniture, household appliances, auto parts, or building materials outside. You may not store firewood outside unless it is stacked on open racks eighteen inches above the ground. You may store a barbecue grill, lawn furniture, garden hoses, garden tools, outdoor play equipment for children, or a lawn mower outside in an orderly fashion.

3 INOPERATIVE MOTOR VEHICLES

Inoperative motor vehicles cannot be stored except in a fully enclosed structure that was constructed with a permit. An inoperative vehicle is a vehicle that does not display a current license tag and/or is not equipped with all parts that are required to legally and safely operate on public streets and/or cannot be driven under its own power (whether or not designed for use on the public streets).

4 PAINT

Paint or other water resistant treatment is required on the exterior of structures. Approved exterior siding or brick that is well maintained and water resistant will also meet the code. Any repairs to the exterior of a structure must be made with materials that match the balance of the structure. Therefore, siding or brick must be repaired using similar siding or brick. When damaged wood is repaired, the replacement wood must be painted the same as the surrounding wood.

5 PARKING

Front yard parking is permitted for passenger cars and motorcycles in residential lots only on a legal driveway or in a garage. A driveway or parking area must be constructed with approved parking surfaces. There are limits to the amount of yard area that can be used for a driveway or parking. Check with the Development Review Services Division at 727-893-7471 for more information about legally recognized parking areas.

6 CONDITION OF STRUCTURES

The maintenance of a structure is the responsibility of the property owner. Any wood, siding, shingles, roof covering, railings, fences, walls, ceilings, porches, doors, windows and screens, and other exterior parts of a structure must be maintained in weather tight, rodent proof, sound condition and good repair. The property owner is responsible for maintaining secure windows, doors or other openings that cannot be readily opened for the outside. An owner may need to board up a vacant structure if a break-in occurs. Security boards must be made of exterior grade plywood painted in a neutral color that blends inconspicuously with the exterior colors of the building.

7 DOMESTIC EQUIPMENT

Domestic equipment includes motor homes, trailers, utility trailers, boats and campers. Up to two pieces of domestic equipment may be located on certain areas of a residential lot. Domestic equipment may be located in the rear yard or interior side yard of a lot; but not in a front yard, a street side yard, or a waterfront yard. On weekends only, equipment may be brought into the front yard to allow easy access and more frequent use.

8 COMMERCIAL EQUIPMENT

Generally, commercial equipment and commercial vehicles may not be parked in a residential area unless they are within a fully enclosed structure that was constructed with a permit. For each residential lot, one commercial vehicle designed as a van, pickup truck, or similar vehicle of up to 20 feet long and up to 7 feet high may be parked on a legally recognized parking area.

9 ILLEGAL DWELLING UNITS

Dwelling units that have been added to the interior or the exterior of a structure without proper permits are illegal, regardless of how long the units have existed. The city will require closure of such units.

10 PROHIBITED BUSINESS

Most businesses are not allowed to operate in residential areas. This means that car and boat repairs, construction of cabinets and furniture, and other activities that are not normally carried on in a residential district are prohibited, except that you may work on your own car, boat, cabinets, etc., provided the activity does not disrupt or injure nearby residents

Did You Know?

- On any day the Codes Compliance Assistance Department's active case load is over 7,000 cases.
- The most common violations cited are: (1) failure to maintain grass, plants and trees, (2) failure to clean up junk and rubbish or outdoor storage, and (3) inoperative motor vehicles.
- Before work begins, permits** are required for any structural repairs, most plumbing and electrical work, driveway installations, and even removal of certain trees. Call Construction Services and Permitting at 727-893-7231 for more information.