



New Castle County Code Enforcement



Top 10 Least Wanted List Ten Most Common Code Violations

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County Executive

New Castle County is committed to working with communities to help preserve the quality of the hundreds of neighborhoods from Centreville to Smyrna. We have expanded our Code Enforcement Staff and initiated an Office of Community Governing to work with civic associations and maintenance corporations. Our enhanced code enforcement staff has identified ten categories of code violations as being the most common.

If you are experiencing problems in your community, please call us at [395-5555](tel:395-5555).

Miscellaneous Property Maintenance

Violations. Includes a variety of code sections regarding the maintenance of the interior and exterior of structures (e.g. doors, windows, walls, ceilings, roofing, etc.) These violations are set forth in the BOCA Property Maintenance Code.

High Weeds & Grass. Grass and weeds are to be maintained at a height of 8 inches or less at all times.

Unregistered/Inoperable Motor Vehicles.

Unless stored in a fully enclosed structure, all motor vehicles are to be properly registered and operable at all times. Placing a tarp or cover over the vehicle does not cure the violation.



Failure to remove a vehicle in violation may result in the vehicle being towed in addition to criminal charges being filed.



Trash. All trash and garbage left outside one's residence awaiting pick-up must be stored in containers with lids at all times. Trash may not be left sitting in bags or boxes.

Debris. Junk, debris, furniture, tree branches, and other items are prohibited from being stored on the exterior of all residential properties.

Parking on grass. Vehicles may not be parked on the grass or lawn of a residential property. All vehicles are to be parked or stored on a hardened surface.

Signs. There are generally three categories of signs: (a) prohibited (i.e. banners, air-filled figures, signs that emit noise, etc.); (b) signs without limitation (e.g. directional signs, ideological, informational); and (c) restricted (e.g. billboards, on-site advertising, etc.)

Building without permits. Building permits are required for most types of construction and many types of home improvement projects (e.g. plumbing, heating, air conditioning, decks, new homes, some sheds, additions, swimming pools, hot tubs, etc.) It is always wise to contact the Department of Land Use at

395-5400 if you have any questions regarding the necessity for a permit.

Home-based businesses. Certain types of businesses may be conducted in residential areas but generally carry many restrictions to ensure that the residential nature of the community is not adversely affected. You should consult the Department of Land Use prior to contemplating any sort of business or home occupation being conducted from your home.

Vacant, unsecured homes. Any vacant home must be maintained as if the home were being occupied (e.g. grass cut, shrubs trimmed, exterior of structure in good repair, and any doors and windows secured to prevent unauthorized entry into the dwelling.)



New Castle County's Office of
Community Governing
and Office of Code Enforcement
want to help preserve and protect
your investment in your neighborhood.

To report violations or to ask for more
information,
call New Castle County at **395-5555**.