



Codes and Ordinances Governing Your City

Nuisance Code

Main Code Violations

Dogs out of yards, weeds, non-landscaped yards, junked or unlicensed cars, trailers-RVs-Boats parked in front yards or the street seem to be the main culprits in the city.

1. Dogs must be kept on your property or on a leash.
2. Weeds on vacant lots or in backyards must be kept less than 4 inches tall within 30 feet of a structure or within 10 feet of a street.
3. Front yards must be landscaped within 2 years of building a new home or October 2010 for all other homes. Side yards are considered a part of the front yard if not fenced.
4. Vehicles that have flat tires, in general disrepair, or unlicensed are not allowed within sight of a road.
5. Trailers, RVs, Boats, ATVs, etc. are to be parked to the side or back of a home, except one of these items can be stored between a home and the road if on a cement, asphalt or gravel pad.
6. No storage of vehicles, debris, or other items in the city owned right-of-way next to the street (generally 9 feet behind the curb or up to 20 feet in older areas of town).
7. Garbage cans are to be put away after 24 hours of garbage day.
8. Home construction can occur between the hours of 7am to 10pm.

What Do I Do If I Have Been Noticed That I Have a Nuisance Problem?

There are 4 ways to abate a nuisance:

1. **Courtesy Letter:** The city will first try to contact you or give you a courtesy letter informing you of the problem and giving you a reasonable amount of time to correct it.
2. **Finding of Nuisance:** If the problem is not corrected in the time given, then a Finding of Nuisance will be issued requiring the problem to be corrected within 2 weeks.
3. **Voluntary correction Agreement:** If you need more time you can enter into a contract between the city in which you agree to abate the nuisance within an agreed upon time and according to specific conditions.
4. **Administrative Citation:** If voluntary correction does not work the city may issue you an Administrative Citation. It comes with a \$50 per day fine and a completion date that the nuisance must be abated by. If a nuisance is corrected by the completion date, any fines accrued shall be canceled.
5. **Abatement by the City:** The city may abate a nuisance when the terms of a Voluntary Correction Agreement or the requirements of an Administrative Citation have not been met. Whenever a nuisance is occurring which constitutes an immediate and emergent threat to the public health, safety, or welfare or to the environment, the city may summarily and without prior notice abate the condition. Abatement by the city can include the city removing the nuisance and billing the responsible person or owner on record the abatement costs.

Can The City Work With Me?

The city wants to do whatever we can to work with you to rectify the problem. Please understand that our biggest complaint from citizens, your neighbors, is nuisance issues. We will do everything we can to work you on a voluntary basis and a reasonable timeline to help you correct a nuisance problem.

What if My Neighbor has a Nuisance?

We recommend that first you try to work with them to correct the problem. If that doesn't work, call the city and we will come and look to see if it violates city code. We would rather you give us your name and contact information, but you can turn information in anonymously.

So What Are All The Rules?

You can view the complete city code at the city office or go to the city website at www.elkridgecity.org look under Quick Links and City Code:

City Code 4-2 Nuisance Code