



Common Code Violations

A code violation is any use of land, including vacant properties and buildings, which is contrary to the provisions of Prior Lake City Code.

This is a partial list of common violation types, for a complete list of the Zoning Ordinance please visit the document center on the city's website. If you have any specific inquiry regarding a possible zoning violation, contact Jesse Corrow, Code Enforcement Officer at 952.447.9811 or jcorrow@cityofpriorlake.com.

Tall Grass/Weeds

All property must be maintained so the grass is less than 12" in height. This is enforced between April 1 – Nov. 1. If the Code Enforcement Officer receives a complaint during that period, an inspector will verify if the grass and/or weeds are in violation, and require the property owner to comply. Certain exceptions apply. (Section 603.101)

Inoperable Vehicle and Junk Storage

No inoperable or unlicensed vehicles may be stored on private property, unless stored in a garage or shed. The same applies for any old, weathered or unused junk items within public view. (Section 606.300)

Storage of Vehicles in Front Yard

Vehicles may only be parked on an approved driveway. (Section 1102.800)

Garbage and Refuse Containers

Garbage containers shall consist of a suitable material which is rodent, fire and waterproof, and should be equipped with a tight fitting cover. Property owners should make a reasonable effort to store the containers out of public view except on the day of service. (Section 601.504)

Pet Nuisance

All dogs and cats must be leashed when being walked and effectively restrained when they are on any public or private property. Owners are required to control any continuous barking remove the waste their pets leave behind. (Section 802.100)

Commercial Uses in Residential Zones

Businesses are not allowed in residential districts, unless the owner has obtained a home occupation permit. (Section 1102.404)

Business Signs

There are many specific requirements regarding the placement of business signs in commercial and residential districts. It is a good rule of thumb to seek permission for the placement of any sign. (See Section 1107.400 of the City Code for information)

What happens when a complaint is filed?

Once a complaint is received, the City's Code Enforcement Officer logs the information in a database. The complaints are ranked according to priority, with health and safety issues taking precedence over violations that do not pose an immediate health or safety risk. The Enforcement Officer will conduct a site visit and, if a violation is confirmed, a warning letter (Notice of Violation) will be mailed to the property owner. The Code Enforcement Officer will give the property owner a deadline to abate all violations on the site. This deadline will vary according to the number and type of violations on site.