

## WHY HAVE PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODES?

Neighbors depend on each other to protect property values, make your neighborhood a desirable place to live, and to help preserve the character and appeal of the city. Property maintenance standards have been reviewed and adopted by Cambridge City Council periodically since the incorporation of the town in 1866. Property maintenance codes are a standard practice and are regularly seen for incorporated towns and cities. This brochure highlights the most often cited codes.

## PROCESS

In the event that a property is in violation of one or more sections of the city code, the property owner and tenant are informed of the code and asked to comply within a certain timeframe. If compliance is not met, then a citation or abatement will be ordered. If compliance is still not gained, then legal action may be pursued.

**Accelerated Abatements:** Junk, debris, unsecured buildings, graffiti, brush removal, tall grass are all deemed nuisances. These nuisances will be abated, meaning a contractor will be hired to resolve this matter on behalf of the owner if it is not resolved by the deadline.

**Citations:** All other code violations are cited, meaning an Administrative Citation of \$200 per day that the violation(s) exist after the deadline, up to \$2,000 per calendar year per violation will be billed to the property owner.

The information provided in this brochure is a summary and is general in nature. It is not intended to cover the entire City Code.

## WHERE TO FIND MORE INFORMATION?

All city codes can be found online at [www.ci.cambridge.mn.us/your-government/codes-ordinances](http://www.ci.cambridge.mn.us/your-government/codes-ordinances) or by contacting city staff.

## CONTACT US

Cambridge City Hall  
300 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave NE  
Cambridge, MN 55008  
763-689-3211

[www.ci.cambridge.mn.us](http://www.ci.cambridge.mn.us)  
[info@ci.cambridge.mn.us](mailto:info@ci.cambridge.mn.us)

Concerns may be submitted in person at Cambridge City Hall, emailed to [info@ci.cambridge.mn.us](mailto:info@ci.cambridge.mn.us) or over the phone at 763-552-3211.

Property maintenance code enforcement is managed by the Community Development Dept.

## RENTAL PROPERTIES

The owner is ultimately responsible for the property and shall ensure compliance with city codes. Rental properties shall obtain Rental Registration or Exemption every biennial season to ensure the city has updated contact information for the property owner. Frequent code violations may result in the Rental Registration being revoked.

# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE PROPERTY MAINTENANCE GUIDE

- ✓ General upkeep of properties
- ✓ Resident satisfaction
- ✓ Maintain property values
- ✓ Sustain neighborhoods



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**Property Maintenance:** It shall be the joint responsibility of the operator and the owner of any principal use to maintain, in a neat and aesthetic manner, the parking space, accessway, landscaping, and required fences and walls.

**Building Maintenance:** Buildings, fences, and other structures which have been so poorly maintained that their physical condition and appearance detract from the surrounding neighborhood are declared to be public nuisances.



**Lawn Maintenance:** Grasses, weeds and vegetative growth shall be maintained at a height of eight (8) inches or less. All landscaping shall be continually maintained and all planting areas shall be kept free of weeds and debris. It is unlawful to discharge grass clippings into city streets or sidewalks.

**Clearing sidewalks in winter from snow:** Unless you live in the "Sidewalk Improvement District," then you are required to remove snow and ice from the sidewalk abutting your property. It is unlawful to push snow onto or across the street.

**Address/House Numbers:** Buildings shall have approved address numbers placed in a position that is plainly legible from the road fronting the property, shall contrast with their background, be Arabic numerals or alphabetical letters, and shall be a minimum of 4 inches tall.

**Temporary Accessory Structures:** Temporary accessory structures such as portable car ports, shelters, tarped covers, and similar structures as determined by the Zoning Administrator, shall be prohibited.

**Junk/Debris:** Any accumulation of refuse on any premises is a nuisance and prohibited. This includes old machinery, furniture, household furnishings, appliances, components/parts thereof, tires, inoperable/unusable equipment, manure, garbage, waste, rubbish, tires, etc.

**Parking:** Vehicles parked outdoors shall be operational and have current license and registration (tabs). All vehicles shall be parked on a poured bituminous or concrete surface, or on a continuous brick paver parking pad, or on the same material as that of the established driveway. Other materials, including decorative landscape rock, gravel, sand, bare soil, crushed rock, or any crushed material shall be prohibited for use as a driveway or parking surface unless the existing driveway is already constructed of one of these.



**Winter Parking Restrictions:** No street parking from Nov 1 to March 31 from 10pm to 7am. (*This is enforced by Cambridge Police Department and can be reported to 763-689-2141.*) One *sport vehicle* may be parked or stored adjacent to the improved driveway during the period of Nov 1 to March 31. *Sport Vehicle* definition per city code: Snowmobiles and their trailers, boats and their trailers, utility trailers, all-terrain vehicles and their trailers. When *sport vehicles* are stored on a trailer, it shall be considered one *Sport Vehicle*.

**Large Vehicles on Residential Properties:** No vehicle exceeding 12,000 GVW may be parked or stored outdoors in a residential district.

**Outdoor Storage:** All materials and equipment shall be stored within a building or fully screened (so as not to be visible) from adjoining properties, except for the following: (1) Clothes lines; (2) Functional recreational equipment including, but not limited to, patio furniture, grills, swing sets and play equipment; (3) Construction equipment and supplies temporarily being used on the premises; (4) Agricultural equipment intended for agricultural use on the premises; (5) Firewood in side or rear yard.

**Garbage Containers:** Containers must be stored within rear or interior side yards. If stored in front, they must be in front of and adjacent to the garage. Only 2 containers may be visible at eye level by adjacent properties and total containers are limited to 4. Containers may be placed at the curb the night before collection and removed by 8pm on collection day.

**Animal Licensing:** Dogs and cats over 6 months shall obtain a tag from the Cambridge Police Dept.

**Number of Animals:** No more than a combined total of 6 dogs and cats over 4 months old and no more than 4 may be dogs.



**Animal Feces:** The owner of any animal or person having the custody or control of any animal shall be responsible for cleaning up any feces of the animal and disposing of the feces in a sanitary manner whether on their own property, on the property of others or on public property.

**Barking:** It is unlawful to keep a dog who habitually barks on repeated intervals of at least 5 minutes with less than 1 minute interruption. (*This is enforced by Cambridge Police Department and can be reported to 763-689-2141.*)

**Animals At-Large:** It shall be unlawful for the domestic animal of any person, to run at large. A person, who owns, harbors, or keeps a domestic animal which runs at large shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. (*This is enforced by Cambridge Police Department and can be reported to 763-689-2141.*)

**Sight Triangles:** A sight triangle shall be on corner lots at every street intersection through which motorists shall have reasonable and unobstructed views. No structures, sign, fence or planting over the height of 30" inches shall be permitted within any sight triangle. If branches encroach into this sight triangle area, the branches shall be 7' feet above the grade of the street/sidewalk.

