

## Frequent Questions

**Who do I call about rats creating a public safety hazard?**

Contact Tumwater's Code Enforcement Officer at (360) 754-4180.

**Can I park my vehicle on my lawn/grass?**

No, legal parking is defined in Tumwater Municipal Code 18.50.030.

**Can I cut down trees on my property?**

Only after getting the required permits. Tumwater Municipal Code 16.08.080 requires a permit for any land clearing or tree removal in the city.



**Un-permitted Tree Removal**

**What is a "Junk Vehicle"?**

Junk Vehicle is defined in state law (RCW 46.55.101(4)) as a vehicle meeting at least three of the following requirements:

- Is three years old or older;
- Is extensively damaged. Such damage may include, but is not limited to any of the following: broken window or windshield, missing wheels, tires, motor or transmission;
- Is apparently inoperable;
- Has an approximate fair market value equal only to the approximate value of the scrap in it.



## Contact Us

You can file most complaints with Tumwater's **Code Enforcement Officer** by calling **(360) 754-4180**.

Other contacts:

Animal Services - (360) 352-2510  
-Animal Control

Tumwater Police - (360) 754-4200  
-Abandoned Vehicles

Tumwater Fire Department - (360) 754-4170  
-Fire Hazards

Public Works - (360) 754-4140  
-Trash or Debris in Public Right of Way



**Community Development Department**  
555 Israel Road SW  
Tumwater, WA

Phone: (360) 754-4180

Email: [preeves@ci.tumwater.wa.us](mailto:preeves@ci.tumwater.wa.us)

Visit us online at: [www.ci.tumwater.wa.us](http://www.ci.tumwater.wa.us)



City of Tumwater

# Code Enforcement



Call us if you have concerns about health, safety, and quality of life in Tumwater...

## Common Complaints:

- Illegal signs
- Protected tree removal
- Grading without permits
- Noise
- Reroofing or remodeling without permits
- Auto Repair in Residential Zoning Districts
- Junkyards in Residential Zoning Districts
- Commercial Trucking Companies in Residential Zoning Districts
- Contractor Storage Yards
- Occupied Travel Trailers
- Dangerous Buildings
- Substandard structures
- Occupied recreational vehicles
- More animals/pets than zoning regulations allow
- Junk vehicles on property or parked on lawns/yards



## What if I have a complaint?

If you are seeking relief from conditions on a property in your community, there are several options available:

- Make contact with the responsible person. Describe your perception of the problem. Discuss how the problem affects you and possible solutions.
- If you have a homeowners association, talk with the Board about whether they can help with a problem occurring in your neighborhood.
- You can also file a complaint with the City by calling (360) 754-4180 and a code enforcement officer will be assigned to investigate the complaint.

Due to limited staff resources, Code Enforcement Officers will prioritize cases based on the following table putting public safety first:

<p><b>1</b> <b>Public Health &amp; Safety</b></p> <p><b>Response Goal:</b> 2 Business Days <b>Compliance Goal:</b> 100% in 45 Days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Illegal Dumping</li> <li>• Unsecured Structures</li> <li>• Broken Sewer Lines</li> <li>• Unpermitted Tree Removal</li> <li>• Other Safety Issues</li> </ul>	<p><b>2</b> <b>Property and Building Use</b></p> <p><b>Response Goal:</b> 6 Business Days <b>Compliance Goal:</b> 90% in 45 Days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building Maintenance</li> <li>• Zoning and Occupancy</li> <li>• Substandard Structures</li> <li>• Junk Vehicles or Lawn Parking</li> <li>• Pets and Noise</li> </ul>
<p><b>3</b> <b>Minor Issues</b></p> <p><b>Responses:</b> Letters, volunteers, overtime assignments <b>Compliance Goal:</b> 90% in 45 Days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signs</li> <li>• Address posting</li> <li>• Window displays</li> </ul>	<p><b>4</b> <b>Other Permitting Programs</b></p> <p><b>Response:</b> As required by ordinance <b>Compliance Goal:</b> 100% Quarterly</p>

## What is Tumwater's Process?

The goal of Tumwater's code compliance process (**TMC 1.10**) and Code Enforcement Officers is to ensure safety through an efficient, civil administrative system to enforce the regulations of the city, to provide an opportunity for an appeal of determinations of violations and prompt hearings and decisions on any such appeals, to establish monetary penalties for violations, and to provide for the collection of these penalties.

- **Step 1:** After receiving a complaint, a code enforcement officer visits the site to validate the complaint.
- **Step 2:** If the complaint is valid, the City will issue a **courtesy Notice of Violation** providing 30 days to abate the violation(s) or issue a **Stop Work Order** if necessary. Both of these letters outline penalties that will apply if violation(s) are not corrected, appealed, or a **Voluntary Correction Agreement** is filed. If the complaint is invalid, the case will be closed.
- **Step 3:** If the violation(s) are not corrected within the provided 30-day timeline, the City may assess fines and penalties that may include civil infractions, criminal citations, or abatement orders pursuant to Tumwater's Municipal Code (**TMC 1.10.040.G**).

For additional information, visit our website: [www.ci.tumwater.wa.us](http://www.ci.tumwater.wa.us)

Contact Your Code Enforcement Officer  
by calling: (360) 754-4180