



Junk Vehicle Information Sheet

What is a Junk Vehicle & How to Report it

Information by Community Planning & Economic Development (CPED) Department

WHAT IS A JUNK VEHICLE?

Junk Vehicles are defined as any inoperable, abandoned, disassembled, or extensively damaged vehicle with two or more of the conditions listed below. This does not apply to special interest vehicles, vehicles undergoing active restoration, farm machinery, or prominently displayed ornamental machinery. This definition is from Thurston County code and applies in unincorporated Thurston County and the Urban Growth Areas of Lacey, Olympia & Tumwater.

- Build up of debris, moss, or weeds on, in, under, or around the vehicle that obstructs use
- Damaged frame
- More than one missing or shattered window or windshield
- More than one inoperable or missing headlight or taillight
- More than one flat tire
- Missing or inoperable engine or transmission
- Missing wheel, tire, body panel, door, hood, other obvious body part, not including a bumper
- Missing license plate
- License plate expired for more than 60 days
- Missing driver side mirror
- Evidence the vehicle has not moved in 60 days

HOW MANY JUNK VEHICLES CAN BE ON A PROPERTY?

In unincorporated areas property size and zoning district determine the number of junk vehicles that can be on a property. In the Urban Growth Areas of Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater, no junk vehicles are allowed. To look up zoning information and view Thurston County codes online, visit www.thurstoncountybdc.com and click on Look Up Property Records, or contact the Planning Services Division at planning@co.thurston.wa.us.

WHAT IF I HAVE MORE JUNK VEHICLES ON MY PROPERTY THAN I AM ALLOWED TO HAVE?

If your property has more junk vehicles than allowed by code, you are in violation.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM IN VIOLATION OF COUNTY CODES?

If a complaint is received, and through an investigation it is determined there are too many junk vehicles, the junk vehicles will need to be removed and the compliance action steps outlined in Title 26, Code Enforcement, will be taken. The junk vehicles allowed to remain must meet screening requirements outlined in the applicable code.



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HOW DO I REMOVE A JUNK VEHICLE FROM MY PROPERTY?

If you own the vehicle

1. You will need the title of the vehicle. If the title is lost, contact the state Department of Licensing at (360) 902-3900.
2. Complete a Washington State Department of Licensing Junk Vehicle Affidavit Form then contact an authorized law enforcement officer to inspect and authorize the disposal of the vehicle. RCW 46.55.010.

If you don't own the vehicle

1. Contact an authorized law enforcement officer who may inspect and authorize the disposal of the vehicle. RCW 46.55.010.
2. Use a Junk Vehicle Affidavit form provided by the Washington State Department of Licensing to facilitate the removal of the vehicle from your property or to claim ownership of the vehicle.

WHAT IF I WANT TO SELL OR CLAIM OWNERSHIP OF A VEHICLE ABANDONED ON MY PROPERTY?

Refer to the Washington State Patrol Abandoned/Unauthorized Junk Vehicles Guide located online at [Abandoned/Unauthorized Junk Vehicles Guide \(R 5/18\) \(wa.gov\)](#) or contact Washington State Department of Licensing.

HOW DO I REPORT JUNK VEHICLES ON MY NEIGHBOR'S PROPERTY?

Complete an Investigation Request Form online at www.thurstoncountybdc.com. Thurston County staff will conduct an investigation and determine if compliance action is needed.

WHO DO I CALL ABOUT AN ABANDNED VEHICLE ON A PUBLIC ROAD?

- State Route or Highway – Washington State Patrol at (360) 586-1999
- County Right of Way – Thurston County Communications Center at (360) 704-2740
- Public Road in City Jurisdiction – Contact the City
 - City of Lacey (360) 491-5642
 - City of Tumwater (360) 754-4200
 - City of Yelm (360) 458-3100
 - City of Tenino (360) 264-2626
 - Town of Rainier (360) 446-2626

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