

### **1. How do I report a code violation?**

Reports must be submitted in writing. This can be done by sending an email to Code Compliance Officer Shane Pieren. You may also submit an online complaint [here](#). You may also fill out a [form](#) at the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor permit counter at City Hall.

Please check to make sure that you reside within the [city limits](#) of Puyallup.

If you are in unincorporated Pierce County with a Puyallup address you can contact Pierce County [here](#).

### **2. How do I contact the Code Compliance Officer if I have questions?**

The best way to contact the Code Compliance Officer is at [spieren@ci.puyallup.wa.us](mailto:spieren@ci.puyallup.wa.us), or at 253-770-3327.

If you would like to meet in person please make an appointment by one of the two methods above. The code compliance officer is frequently out in the field, and often isn't available for drop in visits.

### **3. How do I report on street parking violations?**

On street parking violations including abandoned vehicles, RVs on the street, and parking on sidewalks, are addressed by the Puyallup Police Department. You can contact the Puyallup Police Department at 844-821-8911. (24-hour non-emergency dispatch)

### **4. Do I need a Home Occupation Permit?**

Yes, home occupation permits are required in Puyallup as well as a business license. There are standards contained in Puyallup Municipal Code that require that home occupations not cause or create nuisances, limit the number of employees, and other provisions that limit the impact on neighborhoods. Some home occupations are prohibited outright including auto repair and meth labs.

### **5. Where can I report barking dogs?**

Code Compliance does not handle barking, at large, or loose dogs. If you have a complaint about a barking or loose dog, please contact the Metro Animal Services at 253-299-7387. More information can be found [here](#).

### **6. What happens after I report a code violation?**

When a code compliance case is started, a letter is sent to the owner of the property informing them that a complaint was received, what it alleges, and that an inspection will be carried out within two weeks. Complainant information is kept confidential. After that initial inspection, if violations exist, a formal correction notice is sent outlining the code they are in violation of, and what they can do to remedy it. Usually a two-week correction date is given. After the due date, a subsequent inspection is made. If violations continue to exist, then a final correction notice is sent usually with a 30-day due date. After this final due date, citations may be issued. Often, due to a variety of circumstances, extensions are granted or compliance plans are initiated that may take longer than this. It is the City's policy to try to gain voluntary compliance. Though most code cases are resolved in a short amount of time, on

occasion, a case will take months to come to a successful resolution due to the unwillingness of property owners or tenants.

### **7. Where can I park my RV, boat, or utility trailer?**

In most residentially zoned properties where a rear yard is reasonably accessible or a side yard is of sufficient size to accommodate the recreational vehicle, said recreational vehicle shall not be stored in the front yard of a lot. In no instance shall a recreational vehicle be stored such that any portion of the vehicle encroaches upon a sight distance area established for driveways; nor shall a recreational vehicle be stored on or overhang a public right-of-way. If located within a required front or street side yard, the storage area for a recreational vehicle shall be improved with a paved or gravel surface.

If you have room for an RV in a side or back yard, it must be parked there. If not, it can be parked in the driveway if it doesn't encroach in the sight distance areas of the driveway. RVs are not allowed to be stored on the street or other parts of the right-of-way.

Utility or equipment trailers must be parked in a rear or side yard screened with a sight obscuring 6-foot fence. They are not allowed to be stored in a driveway longer than 72 hours.

### **8. Can I occupy my RV? Can I temporarily live in an RV? My friends/family are coming to visit can they stay in their RV?**

Generally, no. Occupation of RVs are limited to RV parks in Puyallup, unless a temporary use permit is obtained. A temporary use permit allows 4 days of occupancy if certain stringent conditions are met. It is easier to find a RV park.

### **9. My neighbor has garbage piled up in their yard, can they do this?**

Solid waste, garbage, trash, and rubbish is not allowed to be piled up on a property. Solid waste is to be stored in a trash receptacle with a lid, and removed from the premises on a regular basis. An excessive amount of solid waste is a public nuisance. Solid waste is not to be stored in open truck beds or in trailers. Trash service is mandatory in Puyallup. To inquire about setting up disposal service, you may contact D.M. Disposal at 253-414-0347.

### **10. I'm going to restore my classic 1973 Ford Pinto. Can I park it in my driveway?**

If the vehicle is registered, is operable, isn't wrecked, and has no critical missing parts that are required for normal and legal operation, then you can keep it in your driveway. If your vehicle meets any of the above criteria, you may not keep it in your driveway. You would be allowed to keep it in an enclosed building or in a rear or side yard, screened with a 6-foot solid fence.

### **11. Can I keep chickens in my back yard?**

Chickens and roosters, along with other domestic fowl such as geese and ducks, are allowed in the City of Puyallup under certain conditions.

According to Chapter 8.08 of the Puyallup Municipal Code, domestic fowl such as chickens and roosters must be kept either 25 feet or 50 feet away from the nearest residence, depending on how they are enclosed. If the fowl are kept in a pen or structure, such pen or structure must be at least 50 feet from any neighboring residence (meaning the dwelling, not the property). If the fowl are not kept in a pen or

structure, they nevertheless must somehow be restricted from being within 25 feet of any neighboring residence.

Because Puyallup has more than 40,000 residents, noise is a potential concern to consider if you are thinking about obtaining a rooster. While roosters are permitted in accordance with the conditions noted above, care must be taken that their vocalizations do not disturb your neighbors. Specifically, rooster owners need to ensure compliance with the City's noise ordinance, which prohibits "Frequent, repetitive, or continuous noise made by any animal which unreasonably disturbs or interferes with the peace, comfort, and repose of property owners or possessors ..." Owners of animals which violate this provision may be cited.

**12. My neighbor hasn't mowed their lawn in months, is this against code and what can be done?**

Puyallup maintains an ordinance regarding grass and weeds that states that such vegetation over 12" in height are not allowed. Code Enforcement suggests that neighbors talk with each other, as perhaps the neighbor needs some help that you may be willing or able to provide. You can also report a code violation.

**13. Can I keep a metal cargo container on my property? It would come in handy for storage or making a guest house.**

Cargo containers, metal storage containers, or sea cargo containers are not allowed in residentially zoned properties.

**14. There is a lot of mold in the house I am renting. I've told the owner and he refuses to do anything. What can you do?**

In this situation, and other similar ones like this, it is likely a civil matter between you and your landlord. Puyallup and the State of Washington does not regulate mold, nor do we generally get involved with landlord-tenant disputes. You can find landlord and tenant law in RCW 59. It is suggested that you contact an attorney for civil legal recourse. You can find more information at [www.washingtonlawhelp.org](http://www.washingtonlawhelp.org).

**15. I think my neighbor built their new fence on my property. Can you make them remove it?**

The City does not investigate property line disputes. This is a civil matter between you and your neighbor.

**16. What temporary signs are allowed?**

Temporary sign code can be found in PMC 20.60.070. Contact Planning or Code Compliance for specific questions on temporary signs.

**17. Can I set up a temporary/portable garage?**

It depends on where it is being set up and what size it is. Any structure over 200 sq. ft. requires a building permit. It will also have to meet front yard and side street yard setbacks.

**18. Can I keep my unregistered and unrestored 1977 AMC Gremlin in my driveway if it is under a tarp or car cover?**

No, an unregistered vehicle or otherwise inoperative vehicle needs to either be in an enclosed building or in a rear or side yard, screened with a 6-foot fence from adjacent properties and right-of-way. No more than two inoperative or unlicensed vehicles can be stored in a screened rear or side yard.

**19. When I report a violation can I remain anonymous?**

All reports must be submitted in writing and have a name attached to them. If you believe that by reporting the violation you will be faced with retaliation, you can request that your information be kept confidential. This means that your information will not be released unless a court orders the City to do so.

**20. What is a yellow-tagged property?**

A yellow-tagged property is a property that has been declared dangerous or an attractive nuisance and has been ordered vacated until necessary repairs are made. Occupation of a yellow-tagged structure or the property on which it is located, is a crime. You can report violations to the Puyallup Police Department. If you have an abandoned house or structure in your neighborhood that you know is dangerous or is open to entry, please make a report to code compliance.