

Code Enforcement: Frequently Asked Questions

- **Are residents required to use the city's selected refuse and recycling provider?**
 - Yes, effective January 1, 2023 all residents must use AMWaste, the city's trash contractor. The city's sanitation department bills all property owners (not tenants).
- **Does the city provide bulk and brush pick up?**
 - Yes, the Sanitation Department provides brush and bulk pick up as a city service. Collection days are available here: <https://www.newnanga.gov/274/Sanitation-Yard-Debris-Bulk-Items>
- **What are the regulations regarding grass and weed growth?**
 - Grass or weed growth must be under 12 inches.
- **Does the city have guidelines regarding inoperable vehicles ("junk vehicles")?**
 - Vehicles which are not currently registered and/or are inoperable must be stored within an enclosed structure. It is unlawful to park an inoperable vehicle ("junk vehicle") in an open area.
- **Do I need a permit in order to install a fence?**
 - All fence installation must be permitted. The maximum height in the side and rear yards in a residential area is 6 feet tall and 3 feet tall in the front yard. Wood privacy fences must have the finished side of wood facing neighboring properties. Fences may be wood, chain link (rear and side yard only), wrought iron or decorative aluminum, masonry or stucco wall, and vinyl. Wire fencing (chicken wire, hog wire, etc.) is not permitted.
- **How many vehicles may park in my yard?**
 - You may park up to 2 vehicles in the front yard, outside of a driveway, or a parking area. The yard must be maintained so that it does not become deteriorated as a result of vehicles parking on the lawn.
- **May I park a commercial or large vehicle in a residential area?**
 - Any commercial vehicle or vehicle over 10,000 pounds gross weight or vehicle over 24 feet in length must be parked in an enclosed structure in a residential area.
- **How long may a vehicle park on a surface street?**
 - A vehicle may be parked on a city street for 72 hours unless in the downtown area, in which case a 24 hour limit is enforced.
- **Are any types of signage prohibited?**
 - Signs imitating warning signals, displaying lights resembling the flashing lights customarily used in traffic signals or in police, fire, ambulance or rescue vehicles;
 - Signs using words, slogans, dimensional shape or size, or color of governmental traffic signs in such a manner as to resemble official traffic signals;
 - Signs with lights, blinking and /or flashing in series, lines or rows;
 - Flashing, blinking, fluctuating or intermittent lighted signs or beacons or otherwise animated signs other than time and temperature signs;
 - Signs attached to trees or utility poles or boxes;
 - Signs painted on or otherwise attached to rocks or other natural objects;

- Signs, other than those placed by local, state or federal government, or authorized utility located within the public street right-of-way or feet of the edge of curb or closest edge of the pavement of any public street;
- Sign emitting or utilizing any sound capable of being detected on a public road by a person of normal hearing;
- Signs which obstruct any fire escape, any means of egress or ventilation, or prevent free passage from one part of a roof to any other part, signs attached in any way to a fire escape;
- Fringe, twirling, sidewalk or curb signs, balloons, streamers, pennants, portable display signs, air or gas filled figures and other similarly temporary event signs, other than as specifically authorized in this document;
- Roof signs, or signs projecting above the roof line of a structure;
- Signs displaying any statement, word, character or illustration which is obscene;
- Illuminated signs from which direct rays of light are projected on to a lot other than on the lot where the illumination occurs;
- Any and all portable signs, not authorized;
- Search lights and any similar devices;
- Benches, vending machines, trash cans, or other outdoor devices displaying a commercial message;
- Signs with animation;
- Strings of lights not permanently mounted to a rigged background;
- Inflatable signs or displays and tethered balloons;
- An illuminated marquee, illuminated canopy, or illuminated projecting signs;
- Mobile signs or trailer signs;
- Vehicle signs with a total sign area in excess of ten square feet in which
 - Any part of the vehicle is parked for more than three consecutive hours within 100 feet of any street right-of-way, and the vehicle is not being actively loaded or unloaded and there are other available and accessible locations on or about the occupancy advertised where the vehicle can be parked, which are not within 100 feet of a street right-of-way and visible from such; and
 - Is visible from the street right-of-way that the vehicle is within 100 feet; and
 - Is not used regularly in the conduct of the business advertised on the vehicle for more than 3 consecutive hours. A vehicle used primarily for advertising, and not for the purpose of providing transportation for owner, employees, inventory, merchandise, supplies or materials of the occupancy advertised on the vehicle, shall not be considered a vehicle used in the conduct of business. Vehicle may not be used for off premises storage of inventory, merchandise, supplies, or materials.
- **How may I store tires?**
 - New and used tires must be stored in an enclosed and covered area and may never be stored outdoors.

- **How does the city define an “unsafe structure”?**
 - An unsafe structure is dangerous to life, health, property or safety of the public or private occupants of the structure and does not provide minimum safeguards to protect or warn occupants in the event of fire or because such structure contains unsafe equipment or is so damaged, decayed, dilapidated, structurally unsafe or of such faulty construction or unstable foundation that partial or complete collapse is possible. Buildings which are so dilapidated, decayed, unsafe, unsanitary or which utterly fail to provide the amenities essential to decent living that they are unfit for human habitation, or are likely to cause sickness or disease, injury to health, morals, safety or general welfare. Building which exist in violation of any ordinance of the city and are a nuisance, unsafe, unsanitary or dangerous to the health, morals, safety or general welfare of the people of the city.
 - A structure is considered unfit for human occupancy whenever the code enforcement officer finds that such structure is unsafe, unlawful or because of the degree to which the structure is in disrepair or lacks maintenance, is unsanitary, infested with any type of vermin, filth and/or contamination, lacks ventilation, illumination, sanitary or hearing facilities or other essential equipment required or because the location of the structure constitutes a hazard to the occupants of the structure or to the public.

If you still have questions, please contact our Code Enforcement Officers:

<https://www.newnanga.gov/165/Code-Enforcement>