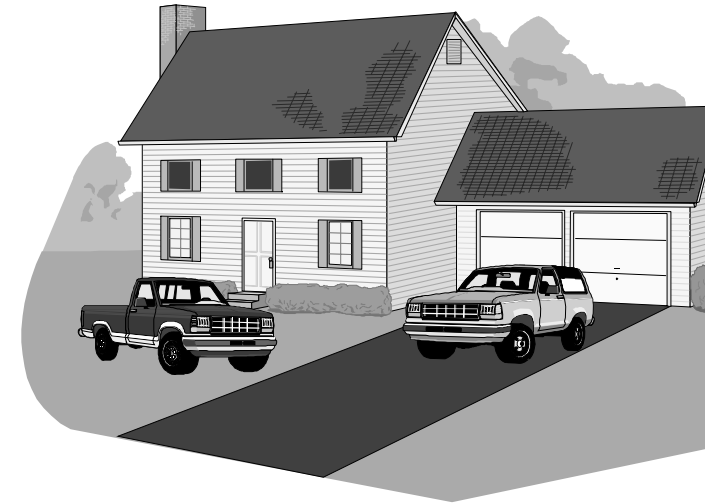


Lawn Parking Ordinance



City of San Jose
Dept. of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement
Code Enforcement Division
170 W. San Carlos Street
(408) 277-4528
(408) 277-3290 fax



City of San Jose
Planning, Building and Code Enforcement
200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113-1905

Para mas informacion,
por favor llame (408) 535-3555

For more information
call (408) 535-3555

What will happen then?

Eventually the car may be towed, but it is a long process. The City must send a written, 30-day notice to the registered owner of the vehicle and the owner of the property. This is followed by a 10-day notice.

What if the car is pushed onto the street?

To report an inoperable vehicle on the street, call 277-5305. You will hear a recording that will ask you for the license plate number, if any, the address, cross street, color of the vehicle, and description. A Vehicle Abatement Officer will investigate the next time they are in the district.

If you would like to report a violation, please provide the following information:

- your name, address, and daytime telephone number;
- the address where the motor vehicle is parked on the lawn;
- the license plate number of the vehicle;
- the location on the lawn;
- whether the vehicle appears operable or inoperable.

If you have more than 3 addresses to report, we ask that you supply the above-requested information by mail or by fax. Thank you for helping us keep the cost of this program low.

Why did the City Council enact this Ordinance?

The City Council enacted the Lawn Parking Ordinance in response to complaints from citizens that motor vehicles parking on lawns created visual blight in the neighborhood, lowered property values, and, in some cases, created a safety concern.

What exactly does the Ordinance prohibit?

The Ordinance prohibits parking any motor vehicle (including automobiles, trucks, boats, campers, recreational vehicles, and motorcycles) on any portion of a front yard or corner lot side yard except on an area that is paved.

What is a “paved surface”?

A “paved surface” can be cement, brick, asphalt, paver, etc. It should be installed so it does not drain onto neighboring property. It is **not** a paved surface if only the areas under the tires are paved. In some areas of town there are existing strips of cement leading to a parking area - this is **ok** but will not be acceptable for new installations.

Where may I park my car?

Cars may be parked: in the garage; on the driveway or any other paved surface, except the public sidewalk; in side yards that are not adjacent to a street if no required exits from the house are blocked; in the rear yard if 60% of the yard area remains open space; and on the street as long as they are moved every 72 hours.

What about my travel trailer or my kid’s bicycle?

Another ordinance, the Zoning Code, prohibits storing your trailer in the front setback of your property. The Lawn Parking Ordinance does **not** prohibit parking a bicycle or tricycle on the lawn.

How is the Ordinance enforced?

When Code Enforcement receives a complaint, a letter will be sent to the registered owner of the vehicle and, if different, the owner and occupant of the property. The letter will give the vehicle and/or property owner ten days to locate an alternative parking space for the motor vehicle.

Why should the property owner be held responsible if his tenant parks on the lawn?

Generally, property owners **are** responsible for any code violation on their property. The property owner also is the only one who can authorize paving for any additional parking.

What happens if the vehicle is not moved?

If the vehicle is not moved, an Administrative Citation will be sent to the registered owner of the vehicle and may also be mailed to the property owner. This citation is similar to a parking ticket in that the person receiving the notice may pay the fine without going to court. This is **not** a criminal citation.

How much is the fine?

The fine is \$25.00, but a new citation may be issued every day that the vehicle is discovered parked on the lawn.



What if the citations are ignored?

If the owner ignores the citations and refuses to move the vehicle, the City could issue a Compliance Order which carries fines up to \$2500 per day, plus administrative costs.

What if I pull my car onto the lawn to wash it? Will I be cited for that?

No. Neighbors won’t complain if this is just a temporary situation or infrequent occurrence. The Ordinance is designed to prohibit someone from routinely parking his or her car on the lawn.

What if my neighbor has an old junk car up on jacks but it’s stored on his driveway, not his lawn?

There is another City Ordinance that prohibits storing inoperable vehicles in driveways or front yard. Call the Vehicle Abatement Unit, 277-4528. Be sure you state that the vehicle is on private property. You will need to provide the correct address, a description of the vehicle, and the license plate number, if available. **Note:** The vehicle has to be inoperable (missing essential parts like the engine, transmission, or wheels); no action can be taken if the vehicle is only unregistered, not used, or looks ugly.