



CODE ENFORCEMENT BOOKLET

Purpose, Intent, and Procedures



City of Colfax

Building & Community Development

Purpose of Code Enforcement

The purpose and intent of the code enforcement code is to create and maintain a safe and healthy environment for the citizens of the city of Colfax. This shall be done by identifying and reducing the conditions that contribute to injury, illness, devaluation of property, and the incidence of crime through the existence of general nuisance conditions on public and private property.

Common Code Violations

Below are some of the common code violations. Some of these nuisances may have quick remedies, while others may have more long term solutions.

- Fire Hazards
- Accumulation of materials, garbage, recyclables, appliances, machinery
- Buildings or portions thereof which are deemed dangerous
- Noise which exceeds permissible noise levels
- Graffiti
- Abandoned or unused junk trailers, house trailers, automobiles, or boats



Noise Complaints

Any sound that intrudes into the property of another person that exceeds the maximum permissible levels is a nuisance violation. To file a noise complaint, please contact the Colfax Police Department

Accumulation of Garbage and Materials

Unhealthy and unsanitary accumulations of materials, garbage, recyclables, appliances, and machinery are prohibited.



Unsafe or Dangerous Buildings

Buildings or portions thereof which are deemed dangerous constitute a violation of the nuisance code. Such conditions may include damaged walls, roofing components that have been damaged, unsafe decks, and accessory structures that are damaged, deteriorated, or decayed.



Junk Vehicles

Abandoned or unused junk vehicles, trailers, or boats are a violation of the nuisance code. Such junk vehicles may be vehicles that:

- Are extensively damaged
- Are without a valid, current registration plate
- Are apparently inoperable
- Are 7 years or older

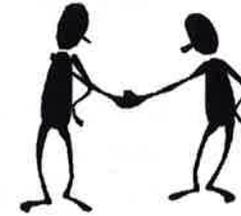


Graffiti

Graffiti upon public or private property is deemed a nuisance. Such graffiti shall be removed by the owner or person responsible for the property where the graffiti nuisance exists.



Voluntary Correction



If a code enforcement officer determines that a civil infraction is not necessary to rectify a nuisance, he/she may seek voluntary correction by contacting the person responsible for the nuisance, explaining the violation, and requesting correction. The code enforcement officer and the person responsible for a nuisance may then enter into a voluntary correction agreement which identifies the nuisance/s and corrective actions to be taken. If the person responsible for the nuisance refuses or fails to correct a nuisance, then the code enforcement officer may issue a citation.

Emergency Enforcement

If an emergency condition results from a declared nuisance, and the responsible person cannot be contacted or refuses to immediately abate the nuisance, the enforcement officer and City may abate the nuisance and shall be entitled to recover costs. Emergency enforcement may be required when a nuisance constitutes an immediate danger to the health and safety of the public.



Citations

If it is determined that a civil infraction is necessary to rectify the situation, then the code enforcement officer may issue a citation. Such citation may include a fine along with a statement of the required corrective action. If the nuisance is not corrected within the specified period, the City may abate the nuisance and recover costs and penalties. If the nuisance is an imminent hazard to the health and safety of the public, a shorter period for corrective action may be required.

Appeals Process

If a person who has been issued a citation believes that no code violation exists, such person may file an appeal with the city clerk within 7 days of receiving the citation. The appeal must specify what portion of the violation is being challenged, and the grounds for such challenge. A hearing will then be scheduled pursuant to CMC Section 8.04.060.

Complaints

Code enforcement within the City of Colfax is mainly complaint driven. If you are being affected by any nuisance outlined in the City of Colfax Municipal Code, complaints can be submitted at City Hall, 400 N Mill Street, in Colfax. You may also call at 509-397-3861. Our goal is to work with the citizens of the city to remedy nuisances in a ways that are efficient and beneficial to all parties involved.

Useful Contacts

Colfax Building & Community Development

Address: 400 N Mill St. Colfax, WA

Phone: 509-397-3861

Email: building@colfaxwa.org

Colfax Police Department:

Non-Emergency Phone: 509-397-4616

Emergency: 911

City of Colfax, Building & Community Development

400 N. Mill St.

Colfax, WA 99111

Phone: 509-397-3861

Fax: 509-397-3044

Email: building@colfaxwa.org