

Living in **Edmonton**

Community Standards

Bylaw #14600

www.edmonton.ca/bylaws



Know The Community Standards For Living In Edmonton.

This guide describes the essential conduct and maintenance required of private property owners. The content of the bylaw is the result of consultation with Edmonton citizens, community groups, businesses and City Council. Private yards, buildings, property perimeters, city boulevards and sidewalks must be maintained to a reasonable and common standard.



NOTE: *Refer to Community Standards Bylaw #14600 for application and specific requirements of the legislation, available through the Office of the City Clerk at 780-496-8178 or online at www.edmonton.ca/bylaws.*

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Look for quick tips to provide you extra information.

At Home

Carry out general maintenance and upkeep of your buildings and structures.

Building & Structure Maintenance

- Prevent buildings on your property from becoming a nuisance - repair damage such as rot, wear and tear.
- Stop air or water from seeping into buildings due to peeling, unpainted/untreated surfaces, damaged roofs, windows, doors or walls.



Derelict Buildings

- Maintain unoccupied buildings normally meant for human habitation.
- Secure windows and doors using solid pieces of treated wood; apply from the exterior to keep the building waterproofed; and prevent unauthorized entry.
- Clean snow and ice from every walk and driveway on or beside the property.



Garbage Collection

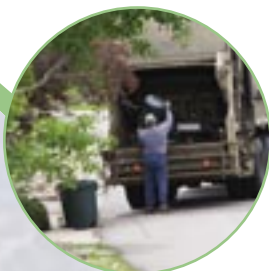
- Put household waste out for your scheduled garbage day after 5 p.m. the day before pickup.
- Remove containers before noon the day after garbage collection. (Waste Management Bylaw #13777)

Waste Bins

- Use only waste bins with lids that completely cover the waste bin.
- Keep waste bins closed at all times except when loading and unloading garbage.
- Prevent garbage from becoming smelly or blowing out of the bin.



Filled garbage bags should be lighter than 20 kg (44 lbs.) You should be able to carry each bag or can with one hand.



In Your Yard

Keep your property clean and tidy and respect your neighbours.

Messy Property

- Clean up waste such as garbage, boxes, tires, vehicle parts, building materials, old furniture, machinery, household goods, loose litter etc. Excessive waste creates unsightly conditions, attracts pests and poses health risks.

Storing Old Appliances

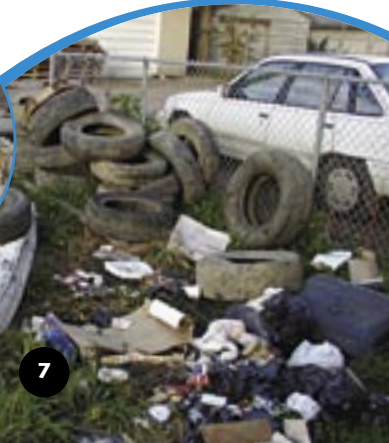
- Dispose of old appliances such as refrigerators and freezers at ECO stations.
- Disable appliances with lock mechanisms by removing doors, handle, hinges, and locks or otherwise securing appliances left outside for pick up or removal.

Wrecked Vehicles

- Dispose of damaged, dismantled or discarded vehicles to auto-wrecking yards.



Big Bin Events are held weekends from May to September throughout the city. Residents can dispose of large bulky items for no charge. For information go to www.edmonton.ca/capitalcitycleanup.



OUTDOOR FIRES

Ensure your outdoor fire is safe and legal.

- Be a thoughtful neighbour when you enjoy a backyard fire pit/place – limit smoke and noise.
- Enjoy cooking with a barbeque appliance in your yard.
- Fuel outdoor fires only with natural gas, preservative-free wood or charcoal.
- Construct outdoor fire pits/places to City specifications – keep clear of property lines and combustible materials.
- Obtain a permit from Edmonton Fire Rescue (780-496-3850) if fire pit/place design varies from City specs.



Cover openings with a spark arrestor mesh.





A person causing an uncontrolled fire by ignoring the bylaw regulations is liable for cost recovery for firefighting.

- 1 Locate pits at least 3 metres from buildings and property lines.
- 2 Cover openings with a spark arrestor mesh.
- 3 Assemble brick or concrete no higher than 60 cm and no wider than 1 metre across
- 4 Fully enclose sides.



Grass Cutting

- Cut grass on yards, boulevards, and back lanes lower than 10 cm to keep your neighbourhood looking neat and tidy.



Grasscycle - cut grass often and leave short clippings in the lawn. Clippings are unnoticeable and disappear within 3 days after cutting.

Compost Piles

- Clean up smelly or messy compost heaps from your yard.



Learn the principles of composting and how to use compost in your yard or garden at the John Janzen Composting Education Centre, Whitemud Drive and Fox Drive (7000-143 Street).

Standing Water

- Drain water from ditches or excavation sites – standing water poses a hazard to the public.



WEED CONTROL

Alberta controls weeds that reduce crop yields and degrade native plant and animal habitat.

- The Alberta Weed Control Act requires property owners to control noxious plants.
- Remove, spray, or cut down noxious weeds on your property and adjoining boulevard before they go to seed.
- Noxious plants are destructive, competitive and difficult to control.
- Find a list of controlled plant material at www.agric.gov.ab.ca.



Grow a healthy lawn to choke out nuisance weeds such as dandelions. Spot treat or pull by hand to help reduce herbicide use at home. Edmonton does not control nuisance weeds on private property.



Dutch Elm Disease (DED)

- Dutch elm disease (DED) is a deadly tree fungus (*Ophiostoma ulmi*) that is destroying millions of elms. Edmonton has one of the largest concentrations of uninfected elms in North America.

What can you do?

- Report any damaged public or private elm trees in your neighbourhood to 780-496-8733 or email citytrees@edmonton.ca.
- Watch for DED symptoms in summer: drooping yellow leaves, branches with smaller leaves than rest of the tree, no leaves or brown wilted leaves that remain on the tree. Call the DED Hotline at 780-496-6905.
- Prune or cut elms ONLY after October 31st or before April 1st in any year;
- Keep elm trees free of wood that is dead or dying;
- Remove elm stumps to a depth of at least 10 cm below the soil surface;
- Stop the transportation, storage, use or sale of elm wood;
- Dispose of elm wood only at authorized sites in Edmonton.

FREE elmwood recycling sites:

- Eco Station (south side) - 5150-99 Street
- Eco Station (north side) - 11440-143 Street
- Eric Cormack Recycling Centre - Northeast Corner 99 Ave and 112 Street



Around Your Property

Maintain the boulevard and the sidewalk beside your property.

Trees

- Prune trees and shrubs around your yard so they do not hang over or block pedestrians or motorists using the sidewalks, alleyways and roads beside your property.
- Call Forestry (780-496-8733) to remove, prune, or repair any City tree on the boulevard.



The City prunes elms every four years; all other trees, depending on size and maturity, are pruned every seven years. Broken branches and tree defects are corrected as they are reported. Email: (citytrees@edmonton.ca)



Boulevard Care

- Cut grass and weeds to a reasonable length and remove fallen leaves, litter and debris from the boulevard beside your property.
- Residents are responsible to care for their property, boulevard and alley flankage.



SNOW REMOVAL

- Clear all snow and ice from any sidewalk beside your property. Where ice builds up apply sand until sidewalks are safe.
- Bus pads are cleared by the City; property owners must clear the snow from the adjacent sidewalks.
- Clear your sidewalks 48 hours after a snowfall. Failure to remove snow could result in a \$100 fine and clean up costs.



Pick up free sand from boxes at Edmonton's community leagues (www.edmonton.ca)



Be a Snow Angel

- Does someone in your neighbourhood need extra help in the winter? Adopt a senior's sidewalk and keep it clear of snow and ice (www.edmonton.ca/snowangels.)



In Your Neighbourhood

Graffiti

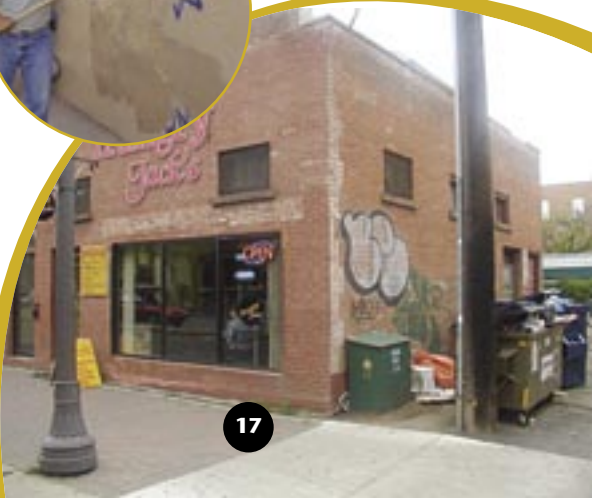
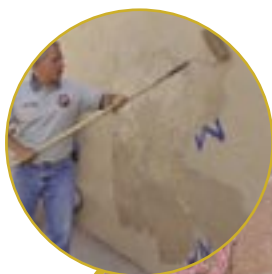
- Remove from buildings and structures graffiti that is visible from any surrounding property.
- Graffiti is vandalism and a criminal offence when placed on public or private property without the owner's consent.

Graffiti Removal

- Keep the exterior of your business clear of graffiti. Tidy walls have a positive effect on your property value and business sales. The 3Rs of graffiti management are report, record and remove. Learn about the City's Graffiti Removal program at www.edmonton.ca/capitalcitycleanup.



If you see a graffiti crime in progress call 9-1-1.



NOISE

Noise that is reasonably likely to disturb the peace of your neighbours may be in violation of the bylaw.

- Consider when and for how long you make loud noise and use of the surrounding area – loud sounds disturb neighbours.
- The City advises you to run equipment such as lawnmowers, snow blowers, chainsaws only between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. and for less than 2 hours.
- The louder the machine the less time you can operate it – decibel levels and time limits are set by this bylaw.
- Residents are entitled to the quiet enjoyment of their property.



Construction Activity

- Carry out construction activity any day of the week, but on Sunday or holidays do not start before 9 a.m. or after 7 p.m.
- Complete construction projects within five years of the date of permit or starting construction.



Noise pollution is a real problem with gas mowers, as any late sleeper on a Saturday morning knows. A gas-powered mower is very loud - switching to an electric mower will ease the stress on your ears and your neighbours.



VEHICLES

Recreation Vehicles (from Zoning Bylaw #12800)

- RVs are any motor home, travel trailer, fifth wheel trailer, camper not mounted on a truck or vehicle equipped for sleeping.
- Learn the City's rules for parking RVs on the street beside your residence.
- Park unattached trailers (tent, fifth wheel, boat and utility trailers etc.) off street at all times.
- RVs cannot be occupied as temporary dwellings on public (or private) property.
- Between April 1 and October 31, a RV may be parked on the front of a residence.
- Between October 31 and April 1, a RV must be stored in a back yard, garage or off-site storage location.
- For complete information on RV parking go to www.edmonton.ca/bylaws.



Vehicle Noise

- Owners of vehicles can be ticketed for exceeding the sound level limits.
- Using engine retarded brakes to slow or stop a vehicle is not allowed in Edmonton.

Trucks

- Oversized vehicles must use established truck routes. For more information regarding Truck Routes or where to obtain a Truck Route Map, contact the Transportation Department's Traffic Operations Section at 496-2680.
- Oversized commercial vehicles (more than 4500 kg) can not be parked on residential property. (Zoning Bylaw #12800)



Need our help?

Register property concerns, pay fees or fines, or request information by contacting **780-496-3100 or register some complaints online at www.edmonton.ca/bylaws.**

Fines

- Property owners guilty of an offence in this bylaw may be fined from \$100 to \$500 and up to \$10,000 for more serious offences.
- Where owners do not comply with property clean up or snow removal orders, the City will clean up and bill the property owner for the cost.



GET INVOLVED

Bylaw Community Standards Fund

- Get financial support for projects that will improve bylaw compliance or public safety at the neighbourhood level.
- Contact Bylaw Community Relations at 780-496-4068 or visit www.edmonton.ca/bylawfund.

Capital City Clean Up

- Adopt-A-Block in your community or business area and keep it clean and tidy. Contact Capital City Clean Up at 780-944-5470 or www.edmonton.ca/capitalcitycleanup.
- Become active participants in graffiti removal to make neighbourhoods safer. For more information contact 780-496-8200 or visit www.edmonton.ca/capitalcitycleanup.



Contact Us

City of Edmonton
Complaints and Investigations
5th Floor 10250-101 Street
Edmonton, AB T5J 3P4
Phone: 780-496-3100



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