

Caring for Your Property



Trees

Per MGO 27.05(3)(b)1 to MGO 27.05(3)(b)(3):

- Ensure trees on your property are in good health. Trim or remove diseased, dying, or dead trees.
- Prevent trees from encroaching on any building or structure.
- Trim or remove tree branches that encroach on structures or sidewalks. Branches over a sidewalk must have at least seven feet clearance from the ground.
- Trim or remove tree branches that are less than twelve feet above the surface of streets.

Lawns and plantings

- Maintain grass. Grass must be shorter than eight inches, including on the terrace. MGO 27.05(2)(f).
- Maintain plantings. Plantings must not obstruct the sidewalk. MGO 27.05(3)(b)(1).
- Destroy noxious weeds, including thistles and poison ivy. MGO 23.29.

Exterior property area

- Keep areas free from debris, rubbish, garbage, physical hazards, rodents, and infestation. MGO 27.05(2)(c).
- Remove animal feces within 24 hours. MGC 27.05(2)(c)

As a property owner, you must maintain your property. Taking care of your property preserves its value. Upkeep also prevents more complex and costly issues. Read on for a summary of your responsibilities.

Trash, recycling, and cart storage

Do not place trash and recycling carts to the curb more than 12 hours before the day of collection. MGO 10.18(1).

- Bring in your trash and recycling carts within 24 hours after trash pickup. MGO 10.18(6).
- Store your trash and recycling carts when not out for collection. MGO 27.05(2)(cc). For questions about cart storage, please contact Building Inspection.
- Supply adequate trash and recycling facilities. MGO 27.04(2)(c). The Streets Division will only pick up trash and recycling from City-supplied carts.

Please contact Streets for more information about trash or recycling.

Large items

Submit a work order for large item pick up before setting items outside.

Large items are those too big to fit into the refuse cart. For example, appliances, furniture, carpets, bicycles, etc. Order a sticker for appliances, vehicle tires, and rims for City pick-up. For more on large items, drop-off sites and items that require fees visit, visit www.cityofmadison.com/largeitem.

Vehicles

Maintain vehicles on residential lots in operable condition. MGO 28.141(10)(d).

Fences, walks, driveways, etc.

Keep fences, walks, driveways, parking, and other paved areas in good order. MGO 27.05(2)(d).

For More Information

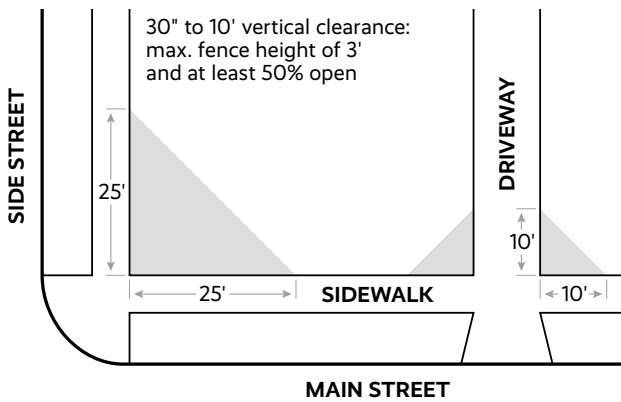


City of Madison
Building Inspection Division
215 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Ste. 017
P.O. Box 2984
Madison, WI 53701-2984

(608) 266-4551; Fax: (608) 266-6377

www.cityofmadison.com/bi
binspection@cityofmadison.com

Vision clearance areas at street and driveway intersections



In a vision clearance triangle, keep clear the area between 30 inches and ten feet above the curb. Do not place screening, plantings, fences, etc. in this area. The exception is fences under three feet in height that are at least 50% open to vision. MGO 27.05(2)(bb).

Graffiti

- Remove exterior graffiti. MGO 27.05(2)(v).
- See the Graffiti Removal Co-Pay Program for help with removal. Visit www.cityofmadison.com/graffiticopay.

Snow and ice removal

Per MGO 10.28:

- Clear snow and ice before noon the day after the snow or ice accumulated. Days end and begin at midnight.
- If you have a corner lot, clear the sidewalk's curb ramp that leads to the crosswalk. Keep this area clear.
- If you cannot remove ice from the sidewalk, use sand or a suitable substance to lessen the risk of falls. Remove the ice as soon as possible.
- Remove excess salt or melting agents when sidewalk is free of ice.

Note: Building Inspection does not give warnings for snow/ice violations. Inspectors check for reasonably safe conditions. If you do not clear the sidewalk by the deadline, you will face a fine. The City may also direct crews to do the work in your place. In these instances, the City assesses the cost of the work, and the fine, against the property.

To report non-emergency problems, please visit www.cityofmadison.com/RAP.

Yard waste and brush

- Do not set yard waste or brush out for regular trash pickup. Do not place yard waste, grass clippings, or leaves in the street. MGO 10.17 and MGO 10.18(7)(d).
- Streets collects yard waste (grass clippings, leaves, etc.) in the spring and fall. Learn more at www.cityofmadison.com/YardWaste.
- Streets collects brush multiple times a year. Learn more about dates at www.cityofmadison.com/Brush.
- When Streets is not collecting brush, use the drop-off sites. Find more information at www.cityofmadison.com/streets/Drop-Off.

Composting

- Maintain sanitary compost piles to prevent odors, rodents, and pests. MGO 7.361(3), 27.05(2)(c)
- Bins must be no larger than 125 cubic feet and no taller than five feet. MGO 7.361(3)(a).
- Place compost piles or bins between the rear wall of a building and the rear lot line. These must be at least three feet from any building or lot line. The rear lot line extends to the side lot line of the property. MGO 7.361(3)(d) and MGO 28.132.

Plantings on terrace areas (between public sidewalk and street)

You may

- Plant any non-woody plants common to gardens or landscaping. MGO 10.25(3)(a).
- Use landscaping like mulch or small rocks to protect approved plants. Landscaping must be stable, non-hazardous, and easily removed. You may use temporary wire fencing, lattices, vegetable cages, etc. MGO 10.25(3)(b).

Refer to the Terrace Treatment Policy for details of what you can place on the terrace.

Directory

Agency	Unit or topic	Phone number
Streets	West side	(608) 266-4681
	East side	(608) 246-4532
	Recycling coordinator	(608) 267-2626
Building Inspection	Non-operable vehicles	(608) 266-4551, ext. 3
	Vision clearance and other exterior issues or snow extension list	(608) 266-4551, ext. 4
	Public Health Madison & Dane County	Composting