

Charlotte Health and Sanitation Ordinance

Abandoned, Junked, and Hazardous Motor Vehicles

Chapter 10 Sec. 10-272 through 10-278

Abandoned Motor Vehicle Definition

- On public street or highway longer than seven days
- On property operated by the City of Charlotte longer than 24 hours
- On private property without consent of the owner longer than two hours

Junked Motor Vehicle Definition

- Does not display a current and valid license plate lawfully *and*
- Is inoperable
- One junked motor vehicle is permitted on the premises if:
 - Located in the rear yard
 - Is entirely concealed by an acceptable canvas covering
- More than one are permitted if they are in a lawful, completely enclosed structure

Hazardous Motor Vehicle Description

Any motor vehicle on private or public property, that is declared a health or safety hazard by a duly-authorized Neighborhood Development Code Enforcement employee, that is:

- A breeding ground for mosquitoes, other insects, snakes, rats, or other pests
- A point of weed growth and/or other vegetation over 12 inches in height
- A point of collection for pools or ponds of water
- A point of concentration of gasoline, oil, or other flammable or explosive material
- So located that there is a danger of the vehicle falling or turning over
- A place where debris, bottles, or other solid waste is discarded and present within the vehicle
- A source of danger for children through a.) entrapment in areas of confinement that cannot be opened from the inside, or from b.) exposed surfaces of metal, glass or other rigid material
- Creates another similar condition or circumstance which exposes the general public to safety or health hazards

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Reporting a Possible Abandoned, Junk, or Hazardous Motor Vehicle

- Call 311
- Inspector will call back (if a contact number is provided) and/or perform an inspection within three days.
- Code Enforcement performs 40,000 inspections per year. This includes:
 - 4726 vehicle violations on private property
 - 1979 vehicle violations on public streets
 - 1200 towed vehicles per year

Pre-tow Requirements

- Code Enforcement must post a warning notice on a conspicuous place on the vehicle. The notice must provide a removal date, no sooner than seven days after the notice is affixed to the vehicle.
- If there is no change after seven days, the Inspector will request that the applicable Zone Wrecker remove the vehicle.
- The requirement that notice be affixed to the vehicle at least seven days prior to removal may be omitted in those circumstances where there is a specific need for prompt action due to traffic impediment or immediate public safety.

Post-tow Requirements

- The City provides tow notification to the vehicle owner via certified mail, wherever possible. Owner information is derived from NC Department of Motor Vehicles via the vehicle VIN number.
- The City must hold a towed vehicle for at least 30 days after notification to the vehicle owner is attempted.
- Citizens may reclaim towed vehicles upon showing proof of ownership and paying towing and storage fees.
- The City must provide notice to the vehicle owner of his right to a probable cause hearing.
- If requested within ten days, a hearing must be provided to determine the grounds for the classification of the vehicle as an abandoned vehicle, provide an opportunity to present evidence, and provide the right to have counsel present.
- Any aggrieved party of the hearing decision may appeal to District Court within 33 calendar days.