

# A brief guide to Seattle's junk storage and weed and vegetation rules

## Great Neighborhood Business Districts

The City of Seattle is making and encouraging investment in Southeast Seattle to benefit the people who live and work there. The City's actions are informed by the community through the Southeast Seattle Action Agenda, Neighborhood Plans and by Link Light Rail's Station Area Plans.

As part of the City's investment in Southeast Seattle, the City is committed to helping business owners understand city rules that require the removal of junk storage and overgrown vegetation. These rules foster great neighborhood business districts by keeping them safe and attractive.

### How do businesses benefit?

The rules requiring the removal of junk storage and overgrown vegetation are not just cosmetic in nature. Local businesses directly benefit from clean and tidy properties by:

- attracting more customers
- increasing the business' financial viability
- strengthening the business district by inviting new business ventures
- creating safer, healthier environments

### What is junk storage?

Examples of junk storage include:

- basic garbage and trash bags
- old furniture and appliances
- inoperable and hulk vehicles
- salvageable materials, including lumber and paint

### What are weed and vegetation violations?

Overgrown weeds and vegetation are in violation of City rules when they:

- overgrow sidewalks and alleys
- overhang sidewalks and streets with less than required clearance
- hide traffic signs

### Avoid Junk Storage Situations



Junk cars and storage can discourage customers. Create a customer-friendly atmosphere by removing unwanted items.



## How do I comply?

Compliance with Seattle's junk storage and weed and vegetation rules depends on keeping your property clean and well maintained. Remove and dispose of unwanted items to prevent outdoor storage on your property. Maintain your property's weeds and vegetation so the public can easily access streets, sidewalks and alleys.

**The City's goal when enforcing these rules is compliance, not fines.** The City of Seattle's compliance process allows the City to work with businesses cooperatively.

The City recognizes that some property owners have hardship situations that make it difficult to correct problems on their own. In those cases, the City will work with individuals who are clearly without means or need help to correct violations, in some cases seeking outside counseling and/or clean up services.

Compliance with these rules allows businesses to avoid fines of up to \$500 a day.

*With your help, we can make great neighborhood business districts.*

## Keep Your Weeds and Vegetation Under Control



Overgrown weeds and vegetation make sidewalks less inviting to customers and the public.

### For more information about proposed changes to City compliance laws:

Web: [www.seattle.gov/DPD/Enforcement/Clean\\_Up\\_Your\\_Act/Overview/default.asp](http://www.seattle.gov/DPD/Enforcement/Clean_Up_Your_Act/Overview/default.asp)

Code Enforcement Information: (206) 615-0808

### For more information about the code compliance process:

Web: [www.seattle.gov/dpd/enforcement/code\\_compliance/Overview/](http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/enforcement/code_compliance/Overview/)