

# INSPECTION & PUBLIC SERVICES

The City of Houston Department of Neighborhoods Inspection & Public Services seeks to improve the quality of life in neighborhoods by reducing blight and substandard living conditions.

## “Be a Neighbor, Not a Nuisance”

Inspection & Public Services encourages everyone to comply with the City ordinances. Please help eliminate nuisance conditions before they result in a violation. Make a difference in your neighborhood. “Be a Neighbor, Not a Nuisance.”

## Violations

This is a brief list of violations that could incur fines and how to resolve the violation. *To report a violation call 3-1-1, the City's Service Helpline.*

### Overgrown Lots

Overgrown weeds, shrubs, grass, and vegetation are fire and safety hazards. The property owner/occupant is responsible for maintaining weeds and grass at nine (9) inches or less and brush and shrubbery at seven (7) feet or less.

**Fines:**  
1<sup>st</sup> Offense: \$ 50 - \$1,000  
2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: \$100 - \$1,500  
3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: \$200 - \$2,000

**To avoid fines:** Remove any weeds and shrubbery in excess of the legal limit. Also, remove any trash or rubbish accumulating on the property.



### Dangerous Buildings

Windows, doors and other openings on vacant buildings and structures must be kept locked and covered to prevent unauthorized entry. A property owner may be required to board up a building/structure if it becomes vacant and is not secured. Storage sheds and garages must also be secured.

**Fines:** \$200 - \$2,000

**To avoid fines:** Close and secure all windows, doors and other openings on vacant buildings and structures. Purchase a permit to repair or secure the building.



### Permitting Conditions That May Attract Rats

A property owner/occupant may not accumulate lumber, boxes, barrels or similar materials that may be used as a harborage for rats. Control of rat infestations is the responsibility of the occupant/owner.

**Fines:** \$100 - \$2,000

**To avoid fines:** Remove garbage, rubbish, lumber, barrels or other materials that may be used

to harbor rats or other rodents. For commercial property, all materials stored on the lot must be 18 inches above the lot surface with a clear space underneath to prevent harborage of rats or rodents.

### Stagnant Water

Accumulation or collection of stagnant water may become a breeding place for mosquitoes and presents a health and safety risk.

**Fines:**

1<sup>st</sup> Offense: \$ 50 - \$1,000

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: \$100 - \$1,500

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: \$200 - \$2,000

**To avoid fines:** Eliminate any holes in the ground or remove containers, including tires that collect water and may promote mosquito breeding.



### Garbage, Rubbish, and Trash

It is the owner's /occupant's responsibility to keep the property free from any garbage, trash or rubbish. Junk, trash, litter and rubbish cannot be deposited or allowed to accumulate on a lot or street.

**EARLY PLACEMENT.** As the residential property owner or occupant, it is a violation to place heavy trash or any oversized items at the curb line prior to the Friday before the scheduled collection date.

**Fines:**

1<sup>st</sup> Offense: \$ 50 - \$1,000

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: \$100 - \$1,500

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: \$200 - \$2,000

**To avoid fines:** Remove all refuse and place it in an approved container. Dispose of all garbage according to Solid Waste Department guidelines and pickup schedules. Call 3-1-1 for pickup schedule and guidelines.

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